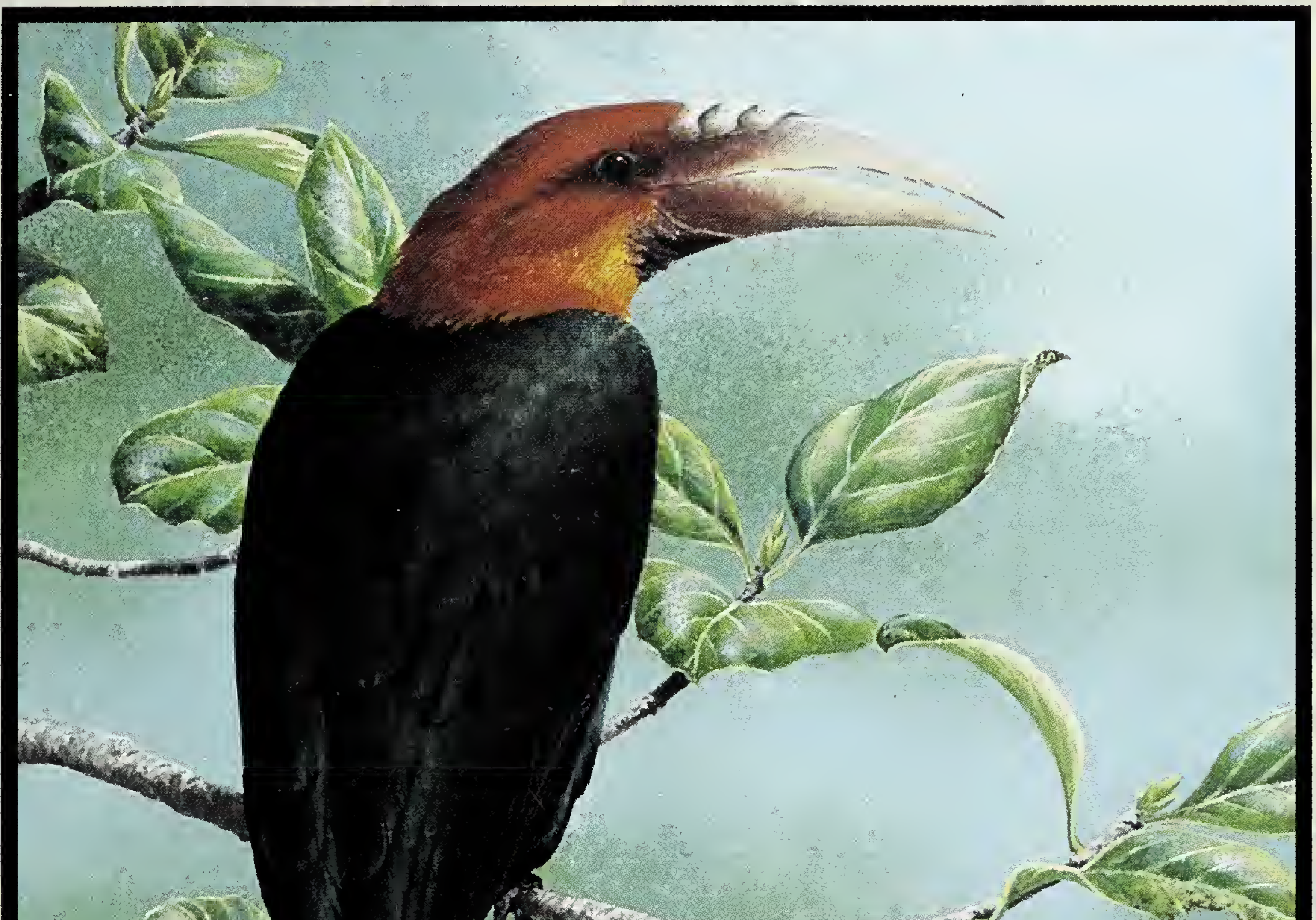
Oriental Bird Club

SPECIAL INDONESIA ISSUE



Bulletin 18 • November 1993

THE ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB is a Registered Charity No: 297242

The Oriental Bird Club aims to:

- **encourage an interest in the birds of the Oriental region and their conservation.**
- **liaise with and promote the work of existing regional societies.**
- **collate and publish material on Oriental birds.**

Two bulletins and a journal, *Forktail*, are published annually.

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Membership of OBC
Membership of the Club is open to all and costs £12 per annum (£8 reduced rate for nationals living in Oriental countries), £16 Family, £36 Corporate Members, £20 Sponsoring Member (supporting the Honorary Membership Scheme, and £20 for organisations, libraries and universities. Special arrangements for payment in USA, Thailand and India. To join or for further details please contact the Membership Secretary, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K.

Cover illustration: Sumba Hornbill *Rhyticeros everetti* by Norman Arlott. OBC is most grateful to the Rare Bird Club of BirdLife International for giving us permission to reproduce this beautiful painting. Deddy Juhaeni won the fourth *Forktail Leica Award* which is funding a study on the ecology of the species.

Corporate Sponsors of OBC - The partnership that works for bird conservation in Asia.

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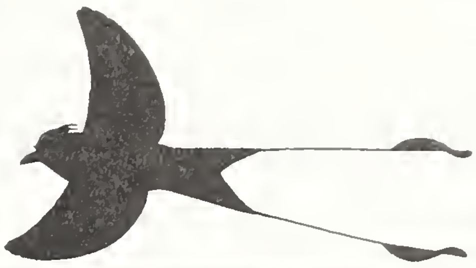

In memory of Rupert Hastings 1955-1993

This bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Rupert Hastings, who was a Founder Member of OBC and a keen supporter of its aims. Rupert bravely fought a crippling illness over recent years, but was still able to attend the Club's AGM in 1992. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Laura.

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Guest editorial

To mark this special bulletin issue we have a 'guest' editorial from Derek Holmes, who has lived in Indonesia for more than 20 years, and has been OBC's representative from the beginning. OBC would like to thank Derek and the Indonesian Ornithological Society for their support of the Club.

Indonesia has 13,000 islands, which are home to 1,534 species of birds, but also to some 200 million people (the numbers of all three differ according to different authors). Fourth in the world rankings for avian diversity, and the highest outside South America, the country also gained notoriety as being ranked first in *Birds to Watch* in terms of the threatened species to be found there.

The high diversity is readily accounted for by the tropical forest environment, and by the fact that this vast archipelago stretches across two faunal regions: the Sundanese fauna of the west (tropical South-East Asia) and the Australo-Papuan fauna of the east. The two biogeographic regions meet in the transitional zone known as Wallacea (named after the biologist-explorer Alfred Wallace), which encompasses Sulawesi, the Moluccas and the Lesser Sundas (Nusa Tenggara). To an ornithologist, the short flight from Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) to Sulawesi is equivalent to crossing an ocean! The dominant sound in the Sundanese forests is the clockwork repetitions of the barbet calls. In Sulawesi, it is the screeching of parrots and the mournful calls of doves, while in Timor it is the incessant chortling of friarbirds. The Sundanese and Wallacean zones are included in the geographical area encompassed by the Oriental Bird Club.

Irian Jaya alone has 647 species, Sumatra 600, and endemism is very high: 381 species in Indonesia as a whole. Endemism is especially pronounced in Wallacea. Sulawesi has 96 endemics, the Lesser Sundas 72, and the Moluccas 65. Even Java and Bali have 29 endemics, higher than Sumatra and Kalimantan whose faunas are largely shared with those of Malaysia.

These are the positive aspects. Inevitably, the growth and spread of the human population, and the very rapid rate of development, do not sit easily with the natural habitats. Deforestation is rampant, especially in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, and Java long ago lost 90% of its forest cover. The Government is increasingly looking to the development of the eastern half of the country, and the wetter Moluccan islands in particular require close monitoring. Nevertheless, the situation in Indonesia still compares very favourably with the almost total loss of natural habitats in most of Thailand and the Philippines. The December 1992 issue of *Bird Conservation International* has two papers emphasizing the urgency of action required to prevent the clearance of the last few hectares of forest on certain Philippine islands, and the endemic birds they contain. Could a similar intervention two decades ago have saved the Cerulean Paradise-Flycatcher *Eutrichomyias rowleyi* on Sangihe Island from extinction? Or more important, are there other desperately urgent hotspots out there in Indonesia of which we are unaware?

Habitat loss is by no means the only threat, however. The bird trade is steadily driving some species towards extinction, and not only the parrot family. The domestic trade has ensured that many locally popular birds are now extremely rare in the wild. Meanwhile, the ubiquitous air gun and, it is thought, farm chemicals, especially on Java, continue to take their toll.

Nevertheless, while birds of any kind are scarce in the densely populated and deforested areas, Indonesia's notoriety in terms of threatened species may not be justified. The long list at least in part reflects our serious lack of field knowledge. So many endemics are known from just a handful of museum specimens, while others are clearly very secretive and their status is totally unknown. Two or three are almost certainly extinct, but we suspect that the majority still have moderately healthy populations.

It has been only during the last decade that there has been a significant increase in ornithological activity in the area. While the Indonesian National section of ICBP (now BirdLife International) was formed as long ago as 1974, it has mainly been the activity of a few dedicated ornithologists that has helped to put the country on the ornithological map, assisted by awakening global trends of environmental awareness and bird tourism. The last ten years have seen the introduction of *Kukila* (the Bulletin of the Indonesian Ornithological Society), the development of Interwader (later to become the Asian Wetland Bureau), and now the opening of an Indonesian office of BirdLife.

Meanwhile the number of internationally sponsored expeditions and research projects continues to grow. Only very recently, after the publication of a number of British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) Checklists, and other literature, has it been possible for the Indonesian Ornithological Society to publish a definitive Indonesian Checklist, broken down to the seven faunal regions (Sumatra, Kalimantan, Java and Bali, Sulawesi, the Moluccas, the Lesser Sundas and Irian Jaya). Most significantly, the number of Indonesian ornithologists has trebled - the presence of 37 young and enthusiastic participants at the 'Bogor Bird Evening' in August was unprecedented - and this very important trend will surely continue.

BirdLife International's Biodiversity Project has shown that a very substantial proportion of the country lies in one or more Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs): areas which supports a unique concentration of restricted range bird species. This identification of significant areas is only a beginning. It is a precursor to the Important Bird Area project, which will identify, document and advocate the conservation of the key sites for birds in Indonesia. This is a massive undertaking that may take several years to complete. Indeed it may not even be practical in some areas because of lack of knowledge. However, the aim of the IBA project will be to identify the most important areas for all of the most seriously threatened species, many of which are not endemic - birds such as the Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* and White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata* in Sumatra, and the White-shouldered Ibis *Pseudibis davisoni* in Kalimantan.

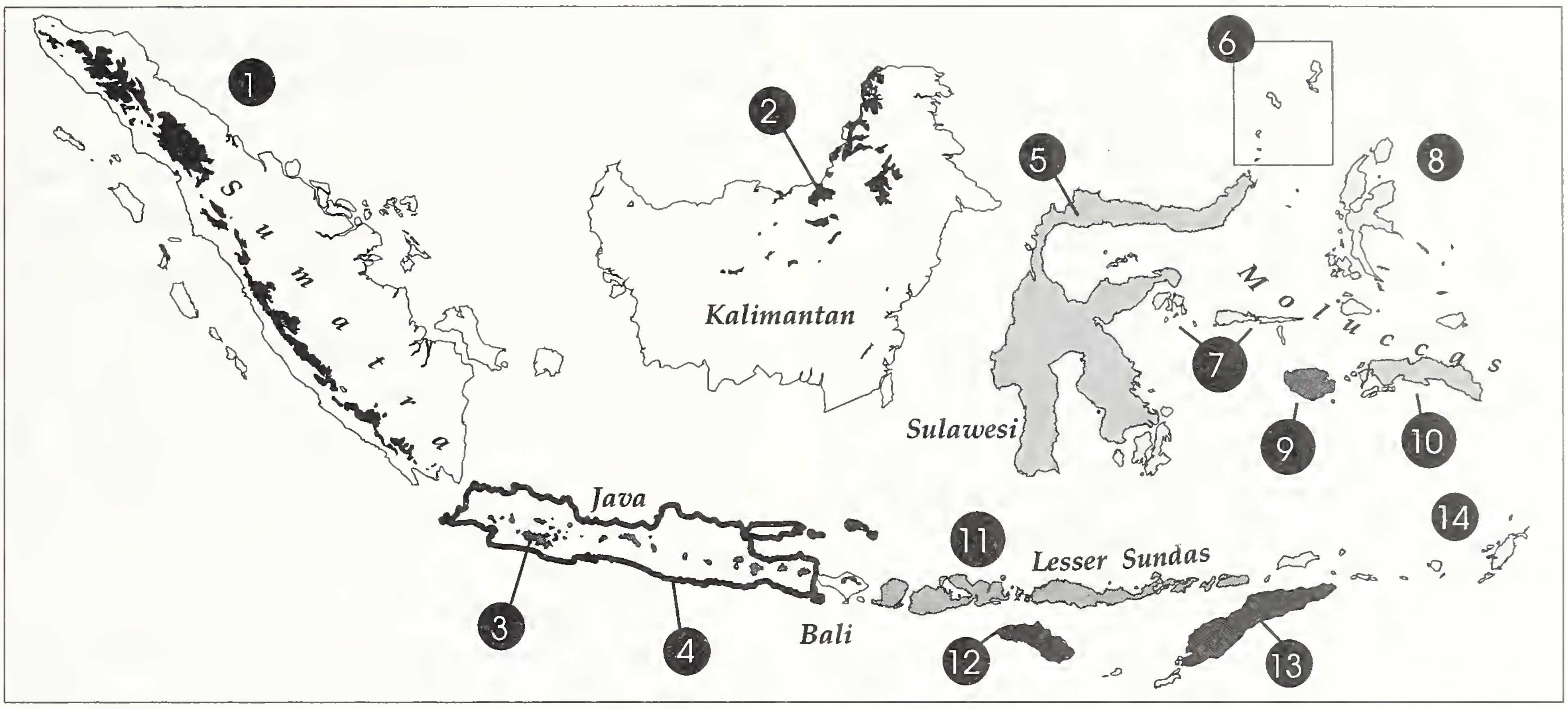


Figure 1. Indonesian Endemic Bird Areas in the Oriental Region.. The numbers cross-refer to the map: 1 *Sumatra (and Peninsular Malaysia;* 2 *Bornean mountains;* 3 *Javan and Balinese forests;* 4 *Javan coastal lowlands;* 5 *Sulawesi;* 6 *Sangihe and Talaud Islands;* 7 *Banggai and Sula Islands;* 8 *North Moluccas;* 9 *Buru;* 10 *Seram;* 11 *Nusa Tenggara (excluding Sumba and Timor);* 12 *Sumba;* 13 *Timor, Wetar and associated islands;* 14 *Banda Sea islands*

Recent moves to encourage tourism and the steadily developing infrastructure have greatly facilitated access to visitors, and the country provides plenty of opportunity for original studies. The greatest potential lies outside the better-known reserves on the tourist beat, and those who can reach the more remote islands will almost certainly be rewarded by finding new birds for the island lists. OBC members who have the time and resources to make the journey will be offered as much advice and/or assistance as our limited capacity will allow, and they can be assured of excellent birding and the possibility to contribute to urgent research.

Derek Holmes, *Indonesian Ornithological Society, PO Box 4087, Jakarta 12040, Indonesia.*

Club News

1993 AGM in London

The ninth Annual General Meeting of the Oriental Bird Club will be held at the Zoological meeting rooms at Regent's Park in London on Saturday 11 December from 11h00 - 16h45. Full details are enclosed with this bulletin. The main talks will be by Clive Briffet on bird conservation in Singapore, Tom Evans and Will Duckworth on birds and mammals in Laos and René Dekker on megapodes. Everyone is welcome and there will be plenty of time to meet other members, as well as listen to the programme of talks. Please contact Dick Filby on (+44) (0)603-767757 for more information.

OBC Overseas Meetings 1994

To mark the 10th Anniversary of OBC, we are pleased to announce two meetings outside the U.K. for 1994.

Utrecht, Netherlands on Saturday 5 February. This joint Dutch Birding Association-OBC meeting will be held at the School of Veterinary Science, University of Utrecht, De Uithof, Utrecht, which is to the east of the city. Doors will open at 09h00, and talks will start at 10h00. The meeting is expected to continue until about 17h00 during which there will be plenty of chances to meet and talk to other members. Speakers are likely to include Frank Lambert on the effects of logging in Sabah, René Dekker on the Nicobar Scrubfowl Project, and Pieter Bison on birdwatching in Yemen. Food, refreshments, and a full range of sales items will be available. All members are welcome, and it is hoped that those from neighbouring countries will be able to attend this important meeting. There will be cheap accommodation available, and *Dutch Birding* members have offered additional free accommodation.

For U.K. members, we are offering a full weekend visit to Holland for this event, together with the chance of some good birding on the Sunday. A coach will depart from Cambridge at 17h30 on Friday 4th to reach the 21h00 overnight ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland (check in 19h30), and returning to Cambridge by about 09h00 the following Monday. The basic travel cost, inclusive of ferry connections, will be £60. For further details and bookings please contact Dave Weaver (Overseas Meetings Officer) on (+44) (0)252-521068 as soon as possible.

Beidaihe, China in early May. An informal evening meeting (possibly two, depending upon demand will be held at the Jin Shan Hotel during early May in cooperation with the Beidaihe Birdwatching Society, Sunbird and Wildwings. Speakers will include Martin Williams giving an introduction to the area and others are to be arranged. The dates are to be finalised at short notice depending upon time available at this busy and exciting time for migration.

It is hoped that more overseas meetings will follow in coming years, especially in the Orient. Any members with suggestions for future events and who would like to help organise a meeting in their country please contact Dave Weaver at the Club's address.

Introducing the OBC-In Focus conservation awareness award

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of one of Britain's leading optical equipment retailers, In Focus, the OBC will be seeking applications for the *OBC-In Focus Conservation Awareness Award* from the start of 1994.

A total of £1,000 (US$1,500) is being offered to nationals of the Orient for a successful project where the main emphasis is on conservation awareness. Such projects include construction of a hide or information centre, funding a camp for schoolchildren or nature trail, improving educational facilities at a local school, funding visual educational material, publications or attendance at a training course, and any other projects which raise local peoples' awareness of conservation issues in their own area.

The *OBC-In Focus Conservation Awareness Award* is based on the success of the *Forktail-Leica Award* and will help to significantly expand the OBC's conservation role. An information leaflet describing the award will be available from the beginning of 1994. If you would like to discuss a proposal, then please write to the Club's Conservation Officer.

Facing the challenge of the next decade

Next year will be the Club's 10th anniversary year, and as the first decade draws to a close Council has been reflecting on how far the Club has come since its founding in 1985, and considering how it should meet the challenges of the second decade.

OBC Council is normally composed of 20 members who are primarily responsible for the administration of the Club and for determining its role and direction. All Council members are of course voluntary and over the years the number of 'officers' has gradually increased as new roles have been created to meet increased demands. However, with a rapidly expanding membership and an increasing commitment to conservation in the Oriental Region, Council has undertaken a major review of the various duties performed by Council members. This has resulted in redefining the responsibilities of many existing posts and the creation of several new ones. It is our intention that every Council member has a specific role or job, and one that is best suited to his/her skills and available 'spare time'.

Having completed this review it was considered that members might be interested to learn how the Club is run, and a brief summary of the responsibilities and duties of each Council role is outlined below.

Please remember that this is your Club and that we are always interested in hearing from any member who feels they have skills to offer to Council, or who has ideas or suggestions on the running and future direction of the Club. Although most of the roles below are currently filled, some jobs fall vacant every year and we are always looking for enthusiastic members who are able to devote a little of their spare time to the Club. If any of these positions appeals to you, please get in touch!

CHAIRMAN

In addition to chairing meetings, the Chairman takes a leading role on Council providing leadership, encouragement, guidance and assistance to other Council members. Wherever necessary, the Chairman also ensures that Council members are performing their duties and that the club's activities are carried out efficiently. He/she regularly monitors the Club's activities and constantly considers the Club's future role and direction.

SECRETARY

The Secretary oversees all OBC correspondence, forwarding it to appropriate officers or replying on behalf of the Club. He/she is also responsible for taking the Minutes at all Council meetings and the AGM. In addition, the Secretary liaises with the RSPB and with the OBC Country Representatives. He/she prepares and distributes the bi-annual circular to all Country Representatives to keep them up-to-date with all club activities.

TREASURER

The Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters with regard to the Club. The Treasurer banks all monies in appropriate bank accounts and pays all club invoices, etc. The Treasurer keeps full financial records, prepares management accounts and full annual statutory accounts. He/she maintains liaison with banks, The Charities Commission and any other relevant parties.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE OFFICER

The Membership Database Officer maintains the Membership Database. The OBC membership details are currently managed in a single database file in dBase III Plus. The main role of the Membership Database Officer is to keep this up-to-date and use it to produce specific outputs and to answer membership queries, etc.

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The Membership Administration Officer works very closely with the Membership Database Officer and replies to all correspondence from potential and existing members regarding their membership. He/she writes to welcome all new members to OBC and also contacts any lapsed members to urge them to renew their membership.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

An important role for maintaining the sustained growth seen in recent years. The Membership Development Officer is responsible for developing alliances with similar conservation organisations and bird clubs throughout the world with a view to stimulating membership growth. In addition, membership promotion through closer ties with bird tour companies is seen as essential. Duties also include responsibility for production and distribution of membership leaflets.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

A key role for publicising the activities of the club to the public. As such the Publicity Officer liaises on a regular basis with all the leading birdwatching magazines and journals and arranges press releases to announce all significant club events (conservation awards, publications, meetings, etc.). Another vital task is the organisation of the OBC stand at the British Birdwatching Fair where he/she may also present a slideshow to the public.

PROMOTIONS OFFICER

The Promotions Officer is responsible for managing the interface between the club and the business community. This includes implementing initiatives to attract Corporate Sponsors thereby boosting income for the Conservation Fund, attracting advertising to offset costs of bulletin production, promoting the Corporate Membership Scheme and helping to obtain prizes for the Grand Prize Draw.

CONSERVATION OFFICER

The Conservation Officer is responsible for the OBC Survey Grant scheme and the *Forktail Leica Award*. A key role is to encourage the submission of quality applications for grants and to correspond with Country Representatives to seek their views on relevant applications. Copies of grant applications are circulated to the conservation sub-committee prior to their regular meetings and decisions taken are reported back to Council. He/she also writes a Conservation Officer's report for the Country Representatives' circular and a section on Conservation Fund activities for the Bulletin.

MEETINGS OFFICER

At present the OBC has three regular meetings in the U.K. each year (Manchester, Blakeney, and the AGM in London) The Meetings Officer is responsible for booking the venues, finding suitable speakers and organising the 'Bird shop'. The latter is an important source of income for the Club. The Meetings Officer also liaises closely with the Publicity Officer and Bulletin Editor advising them of details of the meetings so that they can be advertised accordingly.

GRAND PRIZE DRAW ORGANISER

The Grand Prize Draw Organiser seeks prizes for the raffle, arranges for the printing of the raffle tickets and distributes the tickets through as many channels as possible. The Grand Prize Draw is an annual event and is the life-line of our increasingly important Conservation Fund.

CATERING OFFICER

A recently created post that recognises the important contribution of this role to the fund-raising activities of the club and to the physical wellbeing of the members attending the meetings! The Catering Officer provides members with mouth- watering home-cooked food and refreshments at all our U.K. meetings. Naturally the Catering Officer liaises with the Meetings Officer and plays a key role in ensuring the overall success of our meetings.

OVERSEAS MEETINGS OFFICER

A post created in 1993 for the promotion, planning and co-ordination of meetings outside the U.K., hopefully as an annual event, and perhaps alternating between Europe and other 'western' countries and the Oriental Region. The aim of these is to provide a venue for members and non-members to informally meet, discuss and learn about the work of OBC both in their own country and elsewhere, whilst maintaining/furthering the interests of the Club in the host country and establishing/developing strong links with national or local bird conservation societies and clubs. The venues for 1994 are Holland (joint meeting with Dutch Birding) and Beidaihe, China.

SALES OFFICER

The Sales Officer controls and manages all OBC direct sales activities by developing and proposing ideas for new stock items, processing all U.K. and overseas sales orders, generating sales through appropriate advertising/promotional activity and by maintaining relevant stock levels. OBC book sales are handled by the Bird and Wildlife Bookshop.

BULLETIN EDITOR

The Bulletin Editor is responsible for the production of two Bulletins annually. This entails soliciting and collecting all material for inclusion in the Bulletin, including feature articles, regular contributions and artwork. This involves liaison with other Council members for submission of Club News, etc., with the members of the Editorial Committee for assistance with editing, refereeing and proof reading, and with the printers. Additional skills required include ideas, Desk Top Publishing, knowledge of production/printing and good English.

The Bulletin Editor would be delighted to hear from any members with relevant skills who may be able to assist with the Bulletin. In addition, contributions, photographs, line drawings or ideas for the Bulletin are always welcome.

FORKTAIL EDITOR

The *Forktail* Editor, with assistance from the *Forktail* Editorial Committee, performs the vital role of producing our annual journal, *Forktail*. He/she is responsible for ensuring that all contributions meet the criteria outlined in the inaugural editorial 'The scope of *Forktail*' (*Forktail* 1:3-5) and getting papers refereed where appropriate. Another important function is to encourage ornithologists throughout the Oriental Region to submit original papers to *Forktail*. In this respect ornithologists receiving OBC conservation grants are an important source of material and as such the *Forktail* Editor liaises closely with the Conservation Officer. The *Forktail* Editor is now assisted by the Assistant Editor, a newly-created post.

DISTRIBUTION OFFICER

The Distribution Officer is a new post and will be responsible for ensuring that all OBC publications are posted to members with agreed insertions on time. He/she will liaise closely with the Bulletin Editor, *Forktail* Editor, Secretary, Meetings Officer, Membership Database Officer, printers and mailing house. The Distribution Officer also liaises with printers to ensure that sundry printing is undertaken on a timely basis e.g. membership leaflets, posters, etc.

LEGAL ADVISER

It is hoped that an OBC member with legal expertise will be willing to act as a Consultant to Council when any legal query arises e.g. how Acts such as the Data Protection Act and the Charities Act may affect the Club. At present this role is undertaken by the Club Treasurer.

Can you help? If so, please contact Nigel Redman (Chairman).

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

In order to maintain close links with the whole of our membership, particularly in the Oriental Region, we have a number of Country Representatives. We are currently looking at ways to improve liaison between Council, our Country Representatives and the membership and have received a number of excellent suggestions from some of our existing Country Representatives. We would welcome further suggestions from other Country Representatives and from members as we wish to involve our entire membership more fully in the club's activities in future.

Please send your ideas to Daryl Gardner (Mrs), The Gannet, 37 Oaklands Avenue, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3JF, U.K.

Daryl Gardner and Nigel Redman

Two more corporate sponsors

With more companies joining in partnership with the OBC, we are pleased to welcome two more corporate sponsors. Many members will know of Naturetrek who have a history of pioneering bird tours to exotic locations in the Orient - Naturetrek have chosen to donate £500 to Dr. Choudhury's project at Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam. Apart from the long list of tour destinations offered by Naturetrek the company also promotes in the U.K. 'Koshi Tappu' Wildlife Camp located in Nepal.

Finally, corporate sponsorship status has been extended to In Focus who have agreed to fund the *OBC-In Focus Conservation Awareness Award*. In Focus have already been supporting the OBC by offering the club a commission on all sales of optical equipment to members. This arrangement is now being replaced with this new conservation initiative which will significantly increase the OBC's conservation role in the Orient. We are extremely grateful to In Focus for their support.

More Corporate Members

Since May five more corporate members have joined the OBC, bringing the total to twenty-five. The new corporate members are *Focalpoint*, *Birdline North-West*, *Reed Illustrated Books*, *Maxwell Sheet Metal* and *Alito Color Ltd*. Thanks to the generous support of our corporate members, we now have sufficient resources to fund 75 honorary members in the Orient. The OBC would also like to apologise to Birding South-West and Birdline North-East for mixing up their names in the May bulletin.

Going on a bird tour?

Many members are now taking their holidays on organised birdwatching tours. In recognition of the potential offered by OBC members, we have been successful in attracting advertisements from all the leading bird tour operators. The resulting advertising revenue is being used to improve the quality of the bulletin and include more and more colour. Naturally we want to continuously improve the quality of our publications, but this will depend on our success in attracting advertisements. **Members can therefore help us by informing bird tour companies that they saw their advertisement in the OBC Bulletin.**

Wildwings donates £350

Commissions from travel arrangements made with Wildwings by OBC members amounted to £350 in 1992. With Wildwings increasing its activities to include low cost tours to Beidaihe and Hong Kong in Spring 1994 and even more tours to Antarctica, we have the potential of significantly increasing this source of income. **All we ask from our members is that you identify yourself as an OBC member when booking flights, car rental, accommodation, etc. with Wildwings.**

More support from Bird and Wildlife Bookshop

Thanks to the kind generosity of Bird and Wildlife Bookshop and all the books that our members have been purchasing, over £204 has been raised in donations during the first half of 1993, while a further £163 was raised at the August meeting at Blakeney. We would also like to thank Bird and Wildlife Bookshop for providing £300 towards the costs of colour insertions in this bulletin and for their sponsorship of the AGM in December.

Mega Grand Prize Draw 1993

50 prizes worth over £2,000 in total

There has never been a year when so many prizes have been on offer for OBC's 'Mega Prize Draw'. Apart from the coveted Leica 10x42 binoculars, we are giving away five sets of the *Birds of Pakistan* (Roberts), ten copies of the recently published *A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali* (MacKinnon and Phillipps), ten *Bird and Wildlife Bookshop* vouchers each worth £25, seven prizes of one year's subscription to *Birdwatch*, two prizes of one year's subscription to *Birding World* and *British Birds* and fifteen prizes of £10 *WildSounds* vouchers.

As members will know ,the Mega Prize Draw is the life-line of our Conservation Fund. Therefore, without your support, we cannot implement our ambitious plans for protecting Asia's rich birdlife. Please support the Mega Prize Draw and get your friends to purchase or sell the raffle tickets. More raffle tickets are available from Richard Bosanquet on (+44) (0)81-660-8076.

SUPPORT CONSERVATION - BUY OR SELL THE MEGA PRIZE DRAW RAFFLE TICKETS.

OBC reaches 1,000 MEMBERS

The club in its ninth year has at last recruited its 1,000th member. Various measures to promote membership are now bearing fruit and over the last year membership has grown by 20%. Some of the largest increases have come from the U.K., while membership in the USA has nearly doubled. We thank members for their continued loyalty and hope that it will not be so long before we welcome our 2,000th member.

OBC Manchester meeting

The Club's fifth summer meeting in Manchester was held on 10th July 1993 and some eighty members attended.

Graham Finch and Ian Merrill gave an entertaining account of their recent travels through northern India. All of us felt their pain and frustration at repeatedly missing the much sought after tiger, and it was a great relief when they finally saw two males on the last day at Bandhavgarh National Park (Madhya Pradesh). Apart from the beautiful scenic shots of well-known birding localities such as Nainital, Corbett National Park and Bharatpur, all of us enjoyed the superb shots of Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersi*.

During the break members gorged themselves on the various culinary delights prepared by Nona Finch and Daryl Gardner and then were treated to a fascinating talk by Martin Jones on the birds of Sumba. In addition to showing photographs of little known species such as Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti* and Sumba Boobook *Ninox rudolfi* Martin recounted some of the experiences of the Manchester Metropolitan University expedition to this island. It was also pleasing to learn of the important contribution of Deddy Juhaeni who received an OBC Survey Grant and is also the winner of the fourth *Forktail Leica Award*.

The final talk was by Richard Hart on Asia's Mecca for birdwatchers, Beidaihe. Despite being a hastily prepared talk (Richard only received the slides the morning before the meeting!); members could not fail to be fascinated by those mind-blowing pictures of eastern jewels such as Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina*, Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*, etc.

Finally, the OBC would like to thank *Birdnet, Bird and Wildlife Bookshop, Focalpoint* and *WildSounds* for their generous donations.

Nick Gardner

OBC Blakeney Meeting

The conditions were again perfect for the annual August Bank Holiday meeting at Blakeney, Norfolk, and 300 people made it the best attended OBC meeting ever.

The first speaker, Nick Brickle, talked about the field work that he carried out earlier this year on the Tanimbar Corella *Cacatua goffini* with Yusup Chayadin, BirdLife International's (Indonesia Programme) Parrot Officer (see pages 56-57). Following on, Nick Pope spoke about visiting Sabah, which offers so much bird and habitat diversity for such a small area. The final talk was by Richard Hart, back by popular demand after his illuminating talk on migration at Beidaihe.

This was an excellent and memorable meeting, ably organised as usual by Dick Filby with help from numerous assistants. A special mention must be given to Nona and Graham Finch whose herculean efforts with the catering raised £326 for the Club.

OBC Sales

Members should note that on the enclosed Sales leaflet two new items featuring Martin Woodcock's 'Riverbirds' and 'Blue Pitta' designs have been added to our sales list. The 'Riverbirds' design is now available as a 'T'-shirt in a bottle green colour, and the 'Blue Pitta' is now available in children's sizes for 9-12 and 12-14 year olds.

A big thank you from OBC

The success of the Club relies greatly on help from individuals and organisations, especially now that we are expanding our publications and sales items but still trying to keep our overheads to a minimum.

The production of this bulletin would not have been possible without the enormous help of Michelle Hines and Bob Hibbert, who have given up their spare time unselfishly to help in the layout and design of this edition. The Editorial Committee would also like to thank the BirdLife International Secretariat for the use of their computing facilities.

OBC would like to thank Rob Still and Bob Hibbert for help in layout, design and production for a number of sales items that the Club has produced this year.

Conservation Fund

Compiled by OBC Conservation Officer, Carol Inskipp

Fifth *Forktail Leica Award*

The winner of the fifth *Forktail Leica Award* will be announced at the Club's AGM in December.

Small Grants

Once again the Club is pleased to announce grants for conservation work. Applications are welcomed at any time of the year, but please do apply a few months in advance of your study, as decisions are taken at OBC Council meetings which are held about four times a year. To apply or discuss the planned work please contact Carol Inskipp.

Bird survey of Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India

NATURETREK donated £500 (US$750) for Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury to survey the birds of the Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam for which no systematic bird survey has previously been made. The sanctuary is rich in waterbirds and is regarded as a key site for the conservation of the White-winged Duck *Cairina scutulata,* and also holds the threatened Bengal Florican *Eupodotis bengalensis*. During the survey efforts will be made to assess the impact of humans on the peripheral areas of the sanctuary and on the water bodies inside it. Recommendations for future management will be made to the local, state and national wildlife authorities to take follow-up action.

Survey of endemic birds on Cebu, Philippines

A grant of £500 (US$750) has been made to the Philippine Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Foundation to part fund a survey of endemic birds on Cebu in the Philippines. Many of Cebu's endemic species and subspecies are facing extinction due to the almost complete removal of forests from the island. These include the Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor,* which was considered extinct until it was it rediscovered in 1992 (see *OBC Bull.* 16 and 17). There are also claims of the Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidius,* and other subspecies endemic to Cebu, all of which were previously considered to be extinct. The aims of the survey are to assess the status of Cebu's endemic birds, to survey and identify threats to the forest patches on Cebu, to identify specific areas which need serious and immediate action to preserve the species, and to implement conservation measures. The study will also initiate an awareness campaign for local people.

Winter ecology and conservation of migrant birds, south India

Madhusudan Katti has been awarded £300 (US$450) to assist in purchasing field equipment needed for his study of wintering birds at the Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in south India. The Indian subcontinent has undergone substantial deforestation in the past few decades, but its effect on bird populations has rarely been quantified. Qualitative evidence suggests a decline in some species of winter migrants. Madhusudan will focus on *Phylloscopus* warblers, which are abundant and easy to study in winter.

Specific objectives for the 1993/94 winter are to quantify the abundance of migrant bird species at Mundanthurai, to record how many and which of the individuals ringed in January/March return subsequently, to record feeding and territorial behaviour, and to quantify insect abundance throughout the winter.

Survey of lowland forest birds of West Timor, Indonesia

A grant of £300 (US$450) part-funded Indonesian counterparts of Richard Noske during his survey of forest birds on West Timor in May and June 1993. Timor is not well known ornithologically but supports 140 bird species of which 11 are endemic and nine are globally threatened, all found in the lowland forests which have been extensively cleared and burned. The aims of the survey were to determine the regional distribution of lowland forest birds on West Timor, to determine density and habitat requirements of these species, to examine the relationship between bird species diversity and fragment characteristics of remaining forests and to identify and assess disturbance factors affecting each forest patch.

Study of the Malabar Grey-Hornbill *Ocyceros griseus*, India

Divya Mudappa has been awarded £318 (US$ 477) to fully fund her study of the poorly known Malabar Grey-Hornbill *Ocyceros griseus* in the Karian Shola National Park in the Anaimalai Hills in India. Divya has already carried out a preliminary study of the species in the area earlier this year and will continue her field work there from December 1993 to May 1994. She will investigate the breeding biology of the hornbill, quantify its nesting habitat and compare this with available habitat, and assess the role played by the species in the seed dispersal of some of the forest tree species.

Cambridge-Flores Conservation Project, Indonesia

A grant of £500 part-funded Indonesian members of a Cambridge University expedition which surveyed the forest birds and their habitats on Flores and Sumbawa in Indonesia. The team assessed the conservation status and habitat requirements of the globally threatened and near-threatened species. An important objective of the project was to train the Indonesian team members in bird identification and survey techniques. Highlights of the project's findings are described on p.17 .

Wetar expedition, Indonesia

OBC Bull. 17 announced an award of £500 to the Wetar expedition in Indonesia, but unfortunately this expedition has been cancelled.

CONSERVATION FUND IN ACTION

Avifaunal survey of forest reserves in Mahadayi valley, Western Ghats, India

Malabar Trogon
Harpactes fasciatus
by Nigel Lindsey

A survey was made of the forest reserves of the Mahadayi valley in the Western Ghats in India in April and May 1993 and a number of resident species with restricted ranges were found. These included the Malabar Grey-Hornbill *Ocyceros griseus*, Wynaad Laughingthrush *Garrulax delesserti* and the Black-and-rufous Flycatcher *Ficedula nigrorufa* which are confined to the Western Ghats, and Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea*, Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii*, White-bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra* and Malabar Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus horsfieldii*, which are restricted to India. The Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus* and Yellow-browed Bulbul *Iole indica* which only occur in India and Sri Lanka were also observed. All bird species and their abundance and distribution in the forest reserves were recorded and a full account will be included in the final report. Birds and mammals in the Mahadayi valley suffer from illegal hunting, but a greater threat is a proposed hydroelectric project comprising seven dams which would affect the entire valley and would engulf over 1,600 hectares of semi-evergreen forest. In view of the high biodiversity and endemism of the Mahadayi valley forests it is recommended that the hydroelectric project be abandoned. An area including all the forest reserves has been identified as suitable for designation as a wildlife sanctuary. The prevention of illegal hunting aided by a conservation education programme are also recommended.
Dr J.C. Uttangi

Study of Reeves's Pheasant *Syrmaticus reevesii* in Tuoda Forest, China

A study of Reeves's Pheasant funded by OBC has contributed to the establishment of a nature reserve in China to help protect the species. The survey in Tuoda forest on the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau, was made from September to November 1991 and April to July 1992. Much conservation educational work was carried out during the field studies. The Reeves's Pheasant is threatened and is endemic to China: Tuoda Forest is one of its last strongholds. The altitude of the plateau lies between 2,000 m and 2,400 m and the vegetation is dominated by evergreen oak forest *Quercus variabilis*. Although the primary forest has been felled, there are still good areas of secondary forest.

There are relatively high numbers of the Reeves's Pheasant in the Tuoda Forest as the birds are little disturbed and hardly hunted there. This study found a population of more than 230 birds in 25 km^2, with an average density of 9.2 birds/km^2 and about 15 birds/km^2 in the core area of the forest. The pheasant inhabits oak forest which has a dense crown cover but sparse undergrowth. By day they are mainly terrestrial, and at night they roost on horizontal branches several metres from the ground.

The birds associate in flocks of more than ten birds in autumn and winter, four to eight birds in spring, and during the breeding period a few males may stay together. The Reeves's Pheasant calls less frequently than most other pheasants. In the early morning during the breeding season the male often displays, beating his wings which are half-spread and making a *pu pu*... sound. The main diet of the Reeves's Pheasant consists of fruits and seeds supplemented by insects.

The breeding season in Tuoda lasts from the middle of April to the middle of July. The nest consists of a shallow bowl made of dead pine needles, leaves and herbs, and is generally placed amongst shrubs and grasses or in forest. During the study eight nests were found and the clutch size ranged from six to nine, with an average of 7.3 eggs. The hen incubates the eggs alone. During the early incubation period hens often abandon their nests if disturbed, but later on they faithfully protect their nests and eggs.

Avifaunal surveys were conducted in the Tuoda Forest in January and December 1988, September and November 1991 and April to July 1992. A total of 136 bird species was recorded, including the threatened Silver Oriole *Oriolus mellianus*, and also Purple Cochoa *Cochoa purpurea* and White-browed Nuthatch *Sitta yunnanensis*.

The survey results show that there are still many wildlife species in Tuoda Forest, including a number which are rare or have restricted ranges. Recommendations were made to the Chinese authorities to establish a nature reserve primarily aimed at protecting the Reeves's Pheasant. An area of 20.33 km^2 was identified as suitable for the reserve, including a central core area of 5.33 km^2 where the forest is still in relatively good condition.

On 14 March 1992, the Weining Autonomous government approved the recommendations and the establishment of the Tuoda Nature Reserve for the Reeves's Pheasant. News about the reserve was reported in the People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency and Guizhou Daily. Programmes for conservation are now in progress.

Wu Zhikang, Li Zhumei, Yu Zhigang, Jang Hong, *Guizhou Institute of Biology*.

Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness in Nepal

With the advent of multiparty democracy in Nepal, local governments are competing to bring 'development' to their districts. People are digging to make way for drinking water pipes and irrigation canals, installing hydroelectric plants, starting up factories, and constructing roads to connect their villages to the main highways. There is little real planning and even less regard for the incorporation of environmental considerations in implementing 'development' projects.

The response to these challenges for the most part has been only at the talking level. Some noteworthy efforts in the right direction are the National Conservation Strategy Implementation Program, the newly constituted Environmental Protection Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, and the effort to hand back forests to the user communities for management. However, most of these efforts are top-down approaches that tend to bypass the fact that Nepal is a culturally, ethnically, ecologically and topographically diverse country where the needs and aspirations of the people of each village are different.

The Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness (ECCA) was launched in 1987 with the primary objective of providing a broad environment programme for children. The ECCA Camp curriculum includes technologies to relieve pressure on the environment, health and sanitation, nature hikes and socio-economic surveys, natural science, art and craft, and music and culture. The entire camp is based on hands-on activities and takes place in the natural environment as far as possible. Audio visuals are used extensively during the camp.

Nature hikes are by far the most popular activity during the five day camp. Children are thrilled to use binoculars and be able to watch birds which they have never noticed before or taken for granted. The children also investigate local streams with the help of field equipment donated by OBC, gaining a deeper understanding of the stream's ecology.

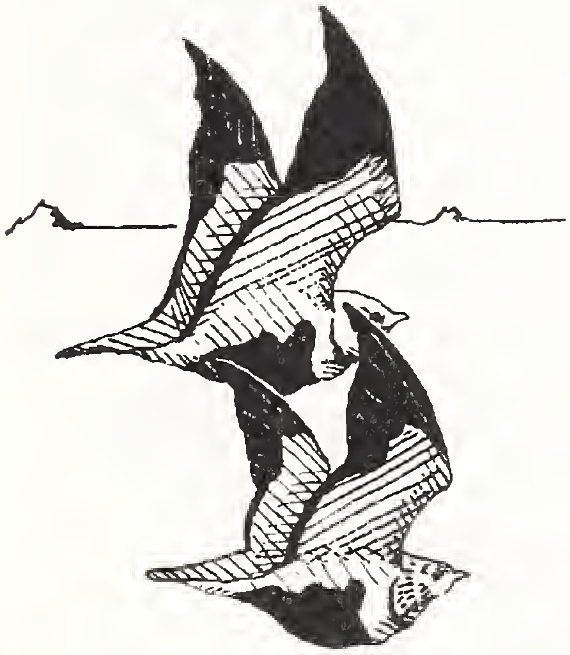
Anil Chitrakar

Avifaunal survey of Desert National Park, Rajasthan, India

Bird surveys have so far been made in Desert National Park, Rajasthan in winter, spring and summer, and a visit in autumn to observe migration is planned. A major objective of the survey is to determine the status and distribution of birds in the park throughout the year. Records from members who have visited the park are welcomed to help produce a more comprehensive final report. A major discovery of the survey is that the Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus*, which has previously been considered to be a winter visitor to India, is actually resident in the area. In January a site was discovered outside the park near Jaisalmer, where there were more than 2,000 Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*. Only one Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* and one White-browed Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhyncha* were recorded in the park in January. Many raptors were passing through in March, including good numbers of Pallid Harriers *Circus macrourus* and Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus*. In June, the hottest month, only those species which can withstand the harsh weather were observed, such as Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps* and Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger*.

Overgrazing by domestic livestock owned by local people and the effects of tourism were found to be seriously affect the park. The concentration of too many camels catering for foreign tourists has led to overgrazing and the cutting of bushes for cooking fuel.

Harkirat Sangha

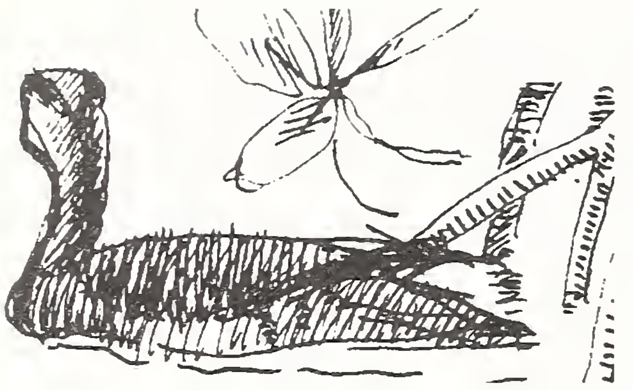


Black-bellied Sandgrouse
Pterocles orientalis
by Nigel Lindsey

Bird survey of Tarutao National Park, Thailand

The Tarutao National Park, established in 1974 and Thailand's first marine national park, comprises 51 islands forming an archipelago in the Andaman Sea 20-70 km off the extreme south-west coast of peninsular Thailand. Tarutao, the largest island, is 26.5 km long and 11 km wide, its topography mainly mountainous with its highest point being 708 m. Semi-evergreen rainforest covers about 60% of the island and there are mangrove swamps in several areas. The Adang-Rawi group of islands lies about 50 km west of Tarutao and includes many coral reefs of high species diversity. Adang island is almost covered by tropical rainforest.

Until this present survey there had been no systematic survey of birds at Tarutao and only a few records have been collected during the last 12 years. A Bangkok Bird Club team made an initial survey of the park in April 1992, and with financial assistance provided by an OBC small grant carried out a more detailed nine day survey in December 1992 and January 1993. Bird species and their abundance in a range of habitats were recorded and a checklist was compiled.



A total of 71 bird species was recorded during the April visit and 81 species during the December/January survey including 37 additional species, making a total of 109 for both visits. It is interesting that the bird species recorded on both surveys were so different. More species would undoubtedly be found if observations were made throughout the year. The Bangkok Bird Club surveys added 39 species to the previous list of birds recorded from the park. The Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata* was seen on each visit and is considered to be resident in the mangroves. There were more migrant species during the drier month of April than in December and January, including Blue-winged Pitta *Pitta moluccensis*, Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia*, Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*, Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*, Inornate Warbler *P. inornatus*, and Pale-legged Leaf-Warbler *P. tenellipes*.

Our report recommends the publication of a checklist of birds and other animals in the park and increasing the existing nature trails. The wildlife and habitats of Tarutao could be illustrated for visitors by setting up an exhibition in the park headquarters and some outdoor display boards, and by running regular slide and video shows. Park staff could be trained to show birds to visitors. Another bird survey over a longer period would be useful to allow time to search for rare species like the Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* and to visit areas with difficult access, such as the isolated islands with seabird colonies and the higher and very steep parts of Tarutao island.

Pratcharee Komolphalin, *Bangkok Bird Club*

Field sketches of Masked Finfoot Heliopais personata*by Kamol Komolphalin*

Studies of montane forests and their birds in east Java, Indonesia

The upper reaches of the Kali Konto river in East Java were visited for a forest bird study during 19 April to 3 May 1993. This study was supported by the OBC Conservation Fund, Zoologisch Insulindefonds, van Tienhovenstichting and FONA. Transects were walked along gradients of varying degrees of disturbance in three different localities (the north-east and western slopes of Mount Kawi, and the south-west slope of Mount Anjasmoro).

The most noteworthy species observed in the area were Javan Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi*, observed at all three localities; Scaly-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus squamatus*, which appeared to be not uncommon at altitudes of 1,000-1,200 m on both mountains; and the Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*, which was seen commonly in several places at fruiting fig trees. The bulbul and flowerpecker are races endemic to Java and there are no published records for either taxon since the Second World War, and these sightings are the first for eastern Java. Other confirmed records for species not previously known for eastern Java are Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis* (one record), Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus* (not uncommon) and Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus percussus* (common). The species mentioned above and the large number of other forest birds confirm the great richness of the Kali Konto catchment area, and its importance for the conservation of Java's birdlife.

Bas van Balen

A study of the conservation and management of breeding and migratory waterfowl in Wuliangsuhai Wetland, China

In 1991 and 1992 a survey was made of the bird species and threats to Wuliangsuhai, an unprotected wetland in Inner Mongolia, northern China. The water area covers more than 300 km^2 and is linked to the Huanghe River system via the Wujia River and an outlet channel. The lake is an important migration stop-over site and breeding area for wetland birds. It lies in an intermediate belt between desert and desert steppe. The climate is harsh with severe winters, hot summers and low precipitation. Freezing of the lake begins at the end of October and the ice-bound period lasts about five months. Wuliangsuhai is quite shallow, most of the lake being less than a metre deep. There are a variety of habitats around the lake, including natural steppe pastures where Amur Falcons *Falco amurensis* hawk insects, and a swamp belt which is an important feeding and breeding area for both resident and passage migrant wildfowl, egrets and waders. Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, buzzards *Buteo* spp. and Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, which breed in the Wula Mountain area less than 5 km away, also use the wetland.

Amur Falcon Falco amurensis
by Steve Rooke

A total of 153 bird species has been recorded from Wuliangsuhai. They include the threatened Spot-billed Pelican *Pelicanus philippensis* which passes through on northward migration in spring. During the present study, four birds were observed for 15 days in April 1992. Other threatened non-breeding visitors to the wetland are the Relict Gull *Larus relictus* and the Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* which is a regular passage migrant. The White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* and Pallas's Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, which were more frequent in the 1950s, are now rare: two individuals only of both eagles were seen during the study, both in April 1991. About 30 Demoiselle Cranes *Grus virgo* and 100 Eurasian Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* were found breeding at Wuliangsuhai. Common Coot *Fulica atra* and Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* are the two most abundant species at the wetland: in autumn 1986 there were counts of 300,000 coots and 100,000 pochards.

A report has been sent to the Ministry of Forestry of China describing the ornithological importance of the lake and recommendations for future management. The water area of the lake is decreasing and is

Demoiselle Cranes Grus virgo
by Mark Fenton

being replaced by marsh. The water level is artificially controlled and changes which take place during the nesting season are causing a large number of breeding failures. Many birds begin breeding in April and May when the water level is lowest, but in June when the water level is increased their nests are flooded. A relatively stable water level during the birds' breeding season is therefore recommended. Every winter almost all the emergent aquatic vegetation is cut by local people, thus seriously destroying breeding habitat for the birds. We have suggested leaving certain areas of reeds uncut each year. Hundreds of eggs are illegally collected by fishermen and birds are regularly hunted on and around the lake. Measures to prevent egg collection and bird hunting should be enforced. Large numbers of birds are poisoned by agricultural chemicals and this has resulted in the virtual disappearance of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and the sharp reduction of the Greylag Goose *Anser anser* in the Wuliangsuhai area. The dangers of eating poisoned birds must be explained to local people. The chief fishing technique at the lake are tunnel-shaped nets in which many thousands of birds, especially the young of diving species, are accidentally trapped each year.

Wuliangsuhai has been a natural paradise for aquatic birds for hundreds of years. With proper management it can continue to be an important breeding area and migratory staging post for waterbirds. If birdwatching tourists were encouraged to visit Wuliangsuhai local people could benefit from valuable additional income.

Xing Lianlian, Yang Guisheng, Li Yao, *Department of Biology, Inner Mongolia University*

Table 1. Some bird species recorded at Wuliangsuhai Wetland

Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor**	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo**
Whooper Swan	*C. cygnus*	Whiskered Tern	*Chlidonias hybridus**
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser**	Pallas's Sea-Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*
Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea**	White-tailed Eagle	*H. albicilla*
Common Shelduck	*T. tadorna**	Eastern Marsh-Harrier	*Circus spilonotus**
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	Besra	*Accipiter virgatus**
Mallard	*Anser platyrhynchos*	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*A. nisus*
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	Northern Goshawk	*A. gentilis*
Northern Pintail	*A. acuta*	Rough-legged Buzzard	*Buteo lagopus*
Common Teal	*A. crecca*	Upland Buzzard	*B. hemilasius*
Red-crested Pochard	*Netta rufina*	Steppe Eagle	*Aquila nipalensis*
Ferruginous Pochard	*Aythya nyroca**	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus**
Baer's Pochard	*A. baeri*	Amur Falcon	*F. amurensis**
Tufted Duck	*A. fuligula*	Eurasian Hobby	*F. subbuteo*
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	Saker Falcon	*F. cherrug*
Smew	*Mergellus albellus*	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis**
Demoiselle Crane	*Grus virgo**	Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus**
Baillon's Crake	*Porzana pusilla**	Black-necked Grebe	*P. nigricollis**
Ruddy-breasted Crake	*P. fusca*	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo**
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus**	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea**
Common Coot	*Fulica atra**	Purple Heron	*A. purpurea**
Swinhoe's Snipe	*Gallinago megala*	Great Egret	*Casmerodius albus**
Black-tailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax**
Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus**	Little Bittern	*Ixobrychus minutus**
Oriental Pratincole	*Glareola maldivarum**	Yellow Bittern	*I. sinensis**
Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus**	Great Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris**
Grey-headed Lapwing	*V. cinereus**	Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia**
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	Spot-billed Pelican	*Pelecanus philippensis*
Relict Gull	*L. relictus*	Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*

**** = breeding species***

Around the Orient

Expedition finds islands' rare birds

The Cambridge Flores/Sumbawa Conservation Project 1993, comprising British and Indonesian ornithologists, spent eight weeks (28 July to 19 September 1993) surveying forest birds on the islands of Flores and Sumbawa, in the Indonesian region of Nusa Tenggara (the Lesser Sundas). Fieldwork was carried out at two sites on Sumbawa and six on Flores.

The provinces of Nusa Tenggara have been extensively deforested and moist forest is now estimated to cover less than 18% of Sumbawa and Lombok (west Nusa Tenggara) and less than 3.7% of Flores, Sumba and Timor (east Nusa Tenggara). Two of the 26 'restricted-range species' (defined by ICBP 1992 as species with a total global range size of 50,000 km^2 or less) occurring on Flores and Sumbawa are considered threatened, and ten are considered near-threatened.

On Sumbawa, 20 restricted-range species were recorded: Flores Green-Pigeon *Treron floris*, Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula lacernulata*, Wallace's Scops-Owl *Otus silvicola*, White-rumped Kingfisher *Caridonax fulgidus*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Sumba Cicadabird *Coracina dohertyi*, Little Minivet *Pericrocotus lansbergei*, Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi*, Russet-capped Tesia *Tesia everetti*, Russet-backed Rhinomyias *Rhinomyias oscillans*, Flores Monarch *Monarcha sacerdotum*, Brown-capped Fantail *Rhipidura diluta*, Bare-throated Whistler *Pachycephala nudigula*, Golden-rumped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum annae*, Black-fronted Flowerpecker *D. igniferum*, Flame-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia solaris*, Yellow-spectacled White-eye *Zosterops wallacei*, Yellow-browed Darkeye *Lophozosterops superciliaris*, Crested Darkeye *L. dohertyi*, Thick-billed Darkeye *Heleia crassirostris* and Scaly-crowned Honeyeater *Lichmera lombokia*. Most of these species were found to be fairly common where moist forest remains. Three species (*Ducula lacernulata, Coracina dohertyi* and *Rhinomyias oscillans*) had not previously been recorded on Sumbawa, and an additional 21 widespread species were new for the island.

On Flores, 25 restricted-range species were recorded, generally commonly, although moist forest is now under severe pressure on Flores. These included all 20 of the restricted-range species recorded on Sumbawa, plus Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula rosacea*, Timor Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes* and three species endemic to Flores, namely Wallace's Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus flosculus* (known only from the type specimen and two subsequent sightings; found by the project at one site in west Flores, at 400-980 m, commonest above 850 m in fruiting figs); Flores Crow *Corvus florensis* (considered threatened, found to be uncommon in moist and semi-deciduous forest at 0-950 m); and Flores Monarch *Monarcha sacerdotum* (previously known only from the observations of Schmutz, who discovered this species in 1977; recorded by the project at one site in west Flores, and found to be uncommon in primary moist forest at 350-970 m). These three endemic species should be considered threatened, due to their limited ranges and the pressures on remaining forest. An additional nine species were recorded for the first time on Flores.

The threatened endemic Flores Scops-Owl *Otus alfredi* was the only restricted-range species which was not recorded. It has not been seen since the type specimens were collected in 1896 and is now considered to be a red phase of Moluccan Scops-Owl *O. (magicus) albiventris* by Sibley and Monroe in their recent supplement to their world checklist.

Two other threatened species, Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* and Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* were recorded on both islands. The Flores record of the pigeon was the first for the island. The only site holding reasonable numbers of the cockatoo was Komodo National Park and the species appears to be close to extinction on Flores and Sumbawa.

Komodo holds the only national park in this region, but it includes no moist forest, the most important habitat for the birds. For the conservation of bird species endemic to these islands, further protected areas are urgently required.

Contributed by Thomas Brooks and Stuart Butchart. A preliminary report is available from S. Butchart (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG, U.K.).

Hooded Crane breeds in China

Chinese ornithologists have long suspected that the Hooded Crane *Grus monacha* breeds in China as it breeds in the Lower Amur Basin in the Russian Far East near the Chinese border as well as on the Middle Siberian Plateau. Li Lin, of the Heilongjiang Wildlife Research Institute, writes that in late April 1991 a Hooded Crane's nest with two eggs was found near the East in a Red forestry plantation in the Xiao Hinggan Ling mountains in Heilongjiang, and that one of the eggs hatched after being removed from the nest. The following year a chick was taken from the nest in June 1992, and both birds were taken to Harbin Zoo. In May 1993 Li found a Hooded Crane's nest with two eggs by the Zhan He river. According to the International Crane Foundation, quoting Russian ornithologist Irene Neufeldt, Hooded Cranes nest in low concentrations, with perhaps only seven per cent of a 2,300 square mile area occupied by 14 to 16 nesting pairs. So, although only one nest has been found each year so far in China, the Hooded Crane may perhaps breed in greater numbers than this indicates.

Source: Li Lin: Breeding site of Hooded Crane found for first time in our country. Yesheng Dongwu [Chinese Wildlife] 1993:5, no 75, 16. [In Chinese]. Contributed by Michael Rank.

Excellent year for breeding birds at Taolimiao-Alashan Nur, China

Species breeding at Taolimiao-Alashan Nur wetland had a very good season, especially among the Relict Gull *Larus relictus* colonies. We found 1,500 Relict Gull nests and 98% of eggs had hatched, and there were only 17 dead chicks by the time of our departure from the site on 23 June. Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica* colony was up to 796 nests making it the largest colony thus far known in China. The Brown-headed Gulls *L. brunnicephalus* returned for the second year (see *OBC Bull. 16* p. 39) with 15 nests found. Interestingly, they formed their own colony away from the Relict Gulls as opposed to last year when they nested amongst them. Other species found breeding at the wetland this year included Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*, Common Shelduck *T. tadorna* and Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*. Additionally, there were four new records for the area, namely Black Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*, Mew Gull *Larus canus*, and Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*.

The results of the past three years fieldwork show that there is an urgent need to add the wetland onto the Ramsar list as well as making an action plan for the area.

Contributed by He Fen-qi and Zhang Yin-sun.

India to go ahead with dam project

India will go ahead with a dam project, bitterly opposed by environmentalists (see *OBC Bull.* 16 and 17). Leaders of the Save Narmada Campaign threatened to commit mass suicide in the rising waters of one dam to stop a project which they say will submerge 248 villages and displace over 100,000 people. When completed the waters will inundate a huge area of virgin forest to create one of the world's largest artificial lakes.

The project will create a series of 30 major dams, 135 medium-sized dams and 3,000 smaller ones along the Narmada which flows through Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh states. The Indian government says the project is essential to irrigate a semi-desert, control floods, bring drinking water to 30 million people and supply plentiful and cheap power to the region.

Source: Reuters.

Malaysia stiffens penalties for illegal logging

Illegal loggers in Malaysia will be given mandatory jail sentences and may be hunted down by the armed forces under new legislation. They face a mandatory one-year jail term but can be sentenced to up to 20 years under legislation passed by parliament in August.

Maximum fines have been increased fifty-fold to 500,000 ringgit (US$195,000) and rewards will be given to informers who tell authorities about illegal logging. Previously, the maximum penalty for illegal logging was three years in jail and a 10,000 ringgit (US$4,000) fine. Convicted loggers may be ordered to pay compensation to the state in addition to any fine.

Malaysia is the world's largest exporter of tropical hardwood, a trade worth 9.3 billion ringgit ($3.6 billion) in 1991.

Source: Reuters.

Little-known bird

Sumba Hornbill *Aceros everetti*

The author took part in an expedition to Sumba, Indonesia in 1992. In this article he relates their findings regarding the threatened Sumba Hornbill. Following this initial study Deddy won the fourth *Forktail Leica Award* which is funding further work on the species.

Until recently, Sumba and its endemic hornbill species, the Sumba Hornbill *Aceros everetti*, received very little attention. The species is one of the least known and most endangered species of Asian hornbills[1] and is listed in CITES Appendix I. There exist descriptions of collected specimens, but there is almost no information on the ecological needs of the species. Between July and September 1992 observations were made by the author during an expedition made by Manchester Metropolitan University to Sumba. This article summarises some of the findings of an initial study on the ecology of the Sumba Hornbill.

Sumba is the third largest island of Nusa Tenggara Timur province. To the east it is bordered by the Savu Sea and in the south by the Indian Ocean. Only about 16% of the 1.2 million ha area is forested. The human population of 400,000 people depends on agriculture, growing cereal crops and raising cattle[2].

Observations on the Sumba Hornbill were made in west Sumba at Yawila, Pornumbu and Manupeu, and in east Sumba at Luku Melolo, Langgaliru and Mount Wanggameti. These localities are all in the tropical rainforest belt with an annual rainfall of 2,000-3,000 mm.

Ethno-ornithological notes

The hornbill is known by the East Sumbanese people as 'goanggali' and as 'nggokgokka' by the West Sumbanese. The number of lines on its casque (three to six), which are not very well developed, are believed by local people to increase annually and the hornbill is therefore also called the 'year bird'. This local belief may have some scientific significance as has been indicated by studies conducted on the number of lines in other species of hornbill in Thailand by P. Poonswad (pers. comm.).

Biological background

On Sumba 139 bird species have previously been recorded, eight of which are endemic to the island[3]. The Sumba Hornbill is presumed to take an important place in the island's forest ecosystems but little is known about this species. Since its initial description by Rothschild in 1897, studies have been limited to a general habitat description of the island and morphology[3] and population estimates[2].

The species is sexually dimorphic, the male being larger than the female, and having a golden brown instead of a black head. Their calls are very characteristic, reminiscent of a domestic chicken, but broken into shorter phrases at varying speeds, and audible from a distance of not more than 500 m.

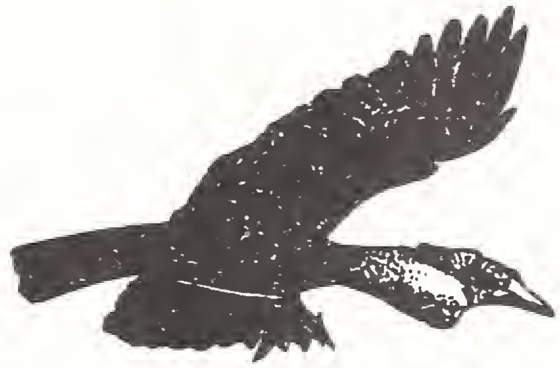


Figure 1. Male Sumba Hornbill in flight (drawing after a photo by H. Kobayashi).

Social organization

Outside of the breeding season the species lives in groups, which consist of pairs with or without their offspring or single immature birds. Group size reaches 70 birds or more, that gather in the morning and just before sunset on their way to roost. Before flying off to their roosting sites the hornbills gather in flocking trees, not far from the roost, and here smaller groups of 5-6 birds assemble to form one large group.

The adults split off from the larger groups one to two months before the breeding season, whereas immature birds stay in small flocks of non-breeding individuals throughout the mating season.

Copulation takes place only after a suitable nest tree has been found. If no such tree is found the unsuccessful pair stays together throughout the season. The first phases of the breeding are indi-

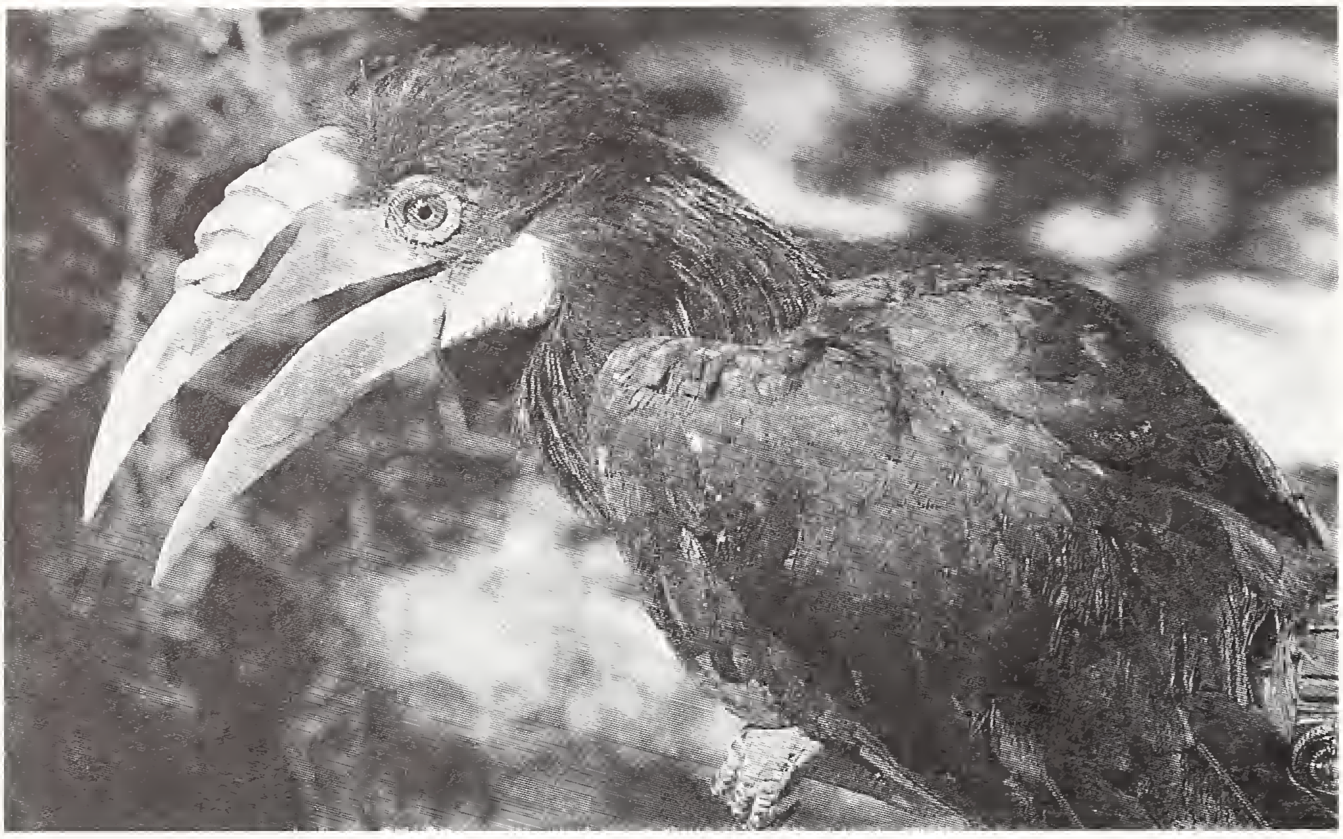


Figure 2. Sumba Hornbill (Photo: M. Jones).

cated by single adult males, as their mates are trapped in their nest holes.

Territorial behaviour

The hornbills can often be observed perched in the tops of tall trees where they rest or keep an eye on fruiting trees. The central part of trees are visited for feeding. During the breeding season pairs of hornbills defend territories, i.e. certain fruiting trees. If the lines are an age indicator in the Sumba Hornbill it would appear that older birds (with a large number of lines) are dominant in defending a fruiting tree against younger intruders (with a smaller number of lines). Competitive interactions take place, characterized by their typical calls and charges.

Interaction with other species

There is only scarce evidence of inter-specific competition for fruits. Long-tailed Macaques *Macaca fascicularis* may be potential competitors, but it seems that this species does not compete much with other animal species for food.

Threats to the hornbill

Hunting the hornbill for food or for the pet trade by the Sumbanese is only rarely practiced, because the meat is not very popular ('tastes of horse meat'), and their economic value (US$2.5 per live bird) is not very high. It is much more profitable to catch Citron-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua sulphurea citrinocristata* (US$30.00), another Sumba endemic.

The most important threat to the survival of the hornbill is the destruction of its habitat through forest exploitation for agriculture or wood, resulting in fragmentation. This situation is worsened by the extremely dry climate of Sumba and the uncontrolled burning of grasslands, which is carried out to encourage regrowth of fresh grass for the thousands of cattle present on the island. This causes severe damage to the adjacent forest, the natural habitat of the hornbills.

The first step in the conservation of the hornbill would be to pay more attention to the condition of its habitat. Forest studies are therefore urgently needed in order to determine the future of the habitat.

Acknowledgments

The author is grateful to Dr Martin Jones (the expedition leader) and Stuart Marsden, LIPI in Jakarta and Bogor, Paul Jepson and Wahyu Rahardjaningtrah (BirdLife International Indonesia Programme), the local PHPA officers (especially Mr Alex B. Ora) and Alison McKnight for their encouragement, advice and moral support; Bas van Balen for corrections and comments on the first drafts of the paper, and many other friends for their cooperation.

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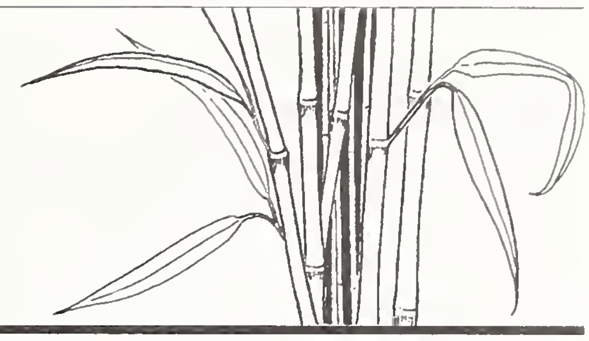

Birdwatching areas

Manusela National Park, Seram, Maluku, Indonesia

A visit to Manusela National Park with its spectacular range of scenery and habitats from bare limestone mountain tops, through rich moss-clad forests, across alluvial river beds and down to the mangroves at the coast is well worthwhile. The authors describe the fascinating endemic avifauna as well as the range of other resident and migratory species which can be seen.

The Manusela National Park covers an area of 186,000 ha, about 11% of the surface area of Seram, which is the largest island in the south Moluccas. The national park contains a broad selection of the habitats present in Seram, and stretches down the centre of the island from the north coast to within 5 km of the south coast (Figure 1). It includes a large portion of the Binaia-Merkele limestone massif encompassing Gunung Binaia (2,490 m), the highest mountain in the south Moluccas, as well as the lower parallel ridge of Gunung Kobipoto to the north. A large area of the lowland alluvial plain where three wide rivers, the Wae Toluorang, Mual and Isal drain northwards to the sea also falls within the park.

Less than 10% of the park area has been disturbed by logging activities, but extensive areas of secondary forest exist around the park's northern borders. Logging is encroaching rapidly on lowland areas outside its boundaries, both west of the Wae Toluorang and east of the Wae Isal. Areas along the north coast that have been clear-felled support coarse *Imperata* grass which is of little value to endemic bird species. Modified forest exists around settlements of the indigenous Alifuru people, particularly in the 'Enclave' which lies between the Binaia and Kobipoto ridges, and there fruit-bearing trees and sago palms predominate.

The northern alluvial plain supports tall lowland rainforest, large areas of which are inundated during the northern wet season (October - March) and consequently the forest floor is often rather bare except on patches of higher ground. *Eucalyptus* trees are common, particularly along the rivers where they form dominant stands giving the forest a distinctly Australasian feel. Lower montane forest appears at around 1,000 m on G. Binaia with 'oaks' such as *Lithocarpus* and *Castanopsis* appearing, as well as conifers including *Agathis* and *Dacrydium*, and 'meranti'. Rainfall is less seasonal at higher altitudes and the forest is rich in mosses and ferns. Above 2,500 m upper montane forest occurs with stunted 'elfin' woodland, dominated by ericaceous shrubs and tree ferns, which gradually thin out to the virtually bare summit peaks above 2,800 m.

Extensive mangrove forests exist around the mouths of the three rivers on the north coast near Pasahari. Outside the park, coconut plantations extend along most coastal areas, and mangroves are confined to a narrow strip at the sea edge and on offshore islands.

Seram can be reached by ferry from Jakarta. The 'Rinjani' of the Pelayaran Nasional company runs every 10-12 days throughout the year, stopping at Surabaya, Ujung Padang and Bau-Bau before reaching Ambon. The trip lasts 3-4 days and is a pleasant cruise through the Indonesian archipelago, affording some interesting sea-watching. During the passage period in September, large numbers of terns, shearwaters, boobies and frigatebirds together with occasional tropicbirds, jaegers, phalaropes and petrels can be seen. A number of cetaceans, including some of the larger whales are occasionally observed, particularly in Moluccan waters. Leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea* and Green Turtles *Chelonia mydas* are also present, together with Dugongs *Dugong dugon* in shallow coastal areas. One night on the Banda Sea, a few lucky observers were surprised to see a Giant Squid *Architeuthis* alongside the boat.

Brief landings can be made at the ports and Bau-Bau on the island of Butung, off Sulawesi, is particularly good in this respect. The wooded ruins of the Portuguese fort behind the town are well worth a look for some of the commoner Sulawesi endemics such as Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum*, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* and Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense*. For those with less time to spare, Ambon can be reached by internal flight from Jakarta.

The remaining hill-forest on the densely populated island of Ambon is worth a quick look for the endemic Ambon Yellow White-eye *Zosterops kuehni* and other local endemics can also be found there, including small numbers of the Salmon-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis*, but beware: some birds may be escapees, as Ambon is a major centre for the trade in Moluccan parrots.

Seram is reached by small ferries which run throughout the year from the main harbour (weather permitting in the wet season, October - March). The 'Wahai Star' ferry runs twice a week to Wahai on the north coast of Seram, which takes around 18 hours. Other boats visit the south coast of Seram and with the imminent completion of the road from the port of Tehoru to Manusela in the heart of the National Park, this may prove to be a quicker route in the future.

Birding can be good from these ferries. Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* are encountered regularly in more sheltered areas, together with a variety of terns including Black-naped *Sterna sumatrana*, Little *S. albifrons*, Common *S. hirundo*, Whiskered *Chlidonias hybridus*, White-winged *C. leucopterus*, Great Crested *Sterna bergii*, Bridled *S. anaethetus* and Sooty *S. fuscata*. Matsudaira's Storm-Petrels *Oceanodroma matsudairae* pass through these waters in July while Wilson's Storm-Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* and Streaked Shearwaters *Calonectris leucomelas* are also present. The ferry tends to hug the shore-line and Pacific Reef-Egrets *Egretta sacra* (grey-phase birds predominate there) are certain to be seen, together with large numbers of Pied Imperial Pigeons *Ducula bicolor* over the coastal forest, as well as some of the larger parrots, White-bellied Sea-Eagles *Haliaeetus leucogaster* and Brahminy Kites *Haliastur indus*.

A total of 197 species has been recorded to date from Seram, of which more than 140 have been recorded from within the Manusela National Park[1]. This number will rise as more observers record additional migrant species. Fifteen species are endemic to the Seram archipelago of which 13 occur on Seram and are found in the National Park. The two other endemics, Ambon Yellow White-Eye and Black-chinned Monarch *Monarcha boanensis*, are restricted to the satellite islands of Ambon and Boano respectively. The latter species was only rediscovered in October 1991 following its initial discovery by van Bemmel in 1939.

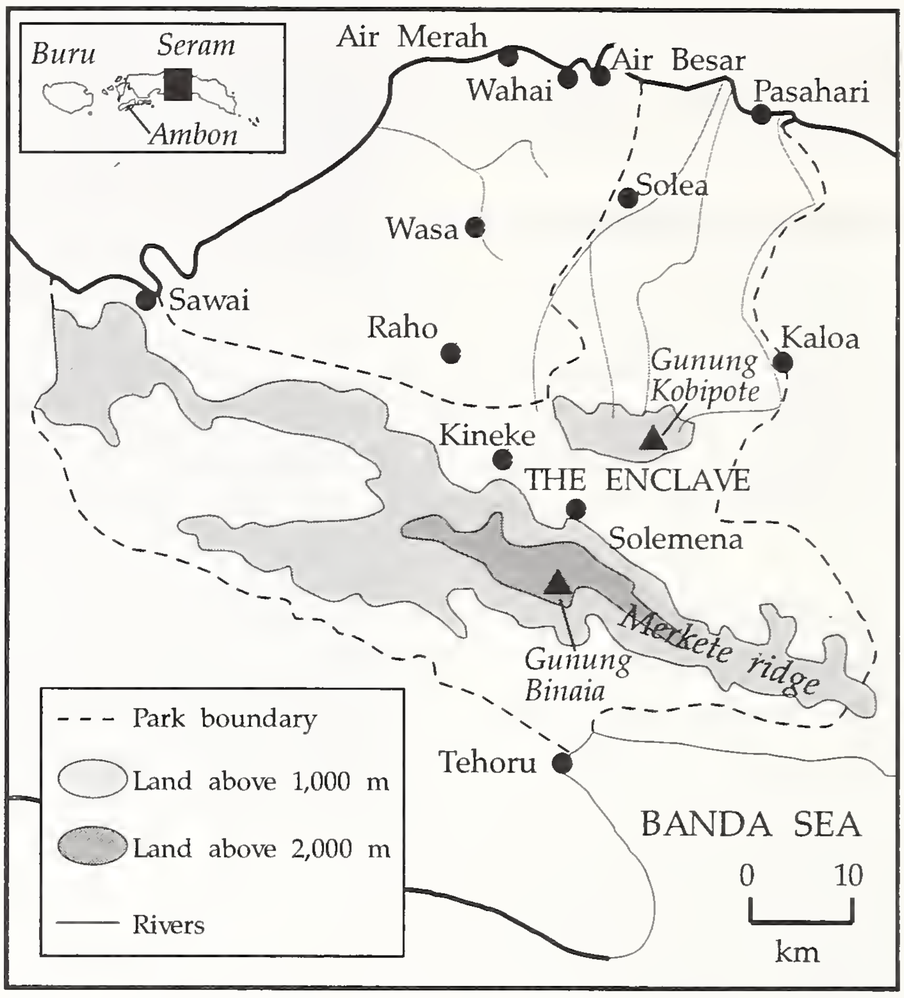

Figure 1. Map of Manusela National Park.

1. Around Wahai

The ferry may dock at the town of Wahai or at the nearby quay of Air Besar depending on the state of the tide. Wahai is a good base from which to stock up on provisions there is some accommodation available and it sports an excellent Chinese restaurant (not to be missed!).

The mangrove-lined mudflats at Air Besar hold a range of waders at the relevant seasons, including occasional Little Curlew *Numenius minutus* and Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*, together with small numbers of Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*. The sandier foreshore at Wahai also hosts Grey-tailed Tattlers *Tringa brevipes*. The small patch of secondary coastal forest immediately behind the quay at Air Besar holds good numbers of both Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* and Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*, while Channel-billed Cuckoos *Scythrops novaehollandiae* can be numerous here in September. Also present in the coastal strip in good numbers are the Shining Starling *Aplonis metallica*, together with White-spectacled Imperial Pigeons *Ducula perspicillata*, Pied Imperial Pigeons, Willie Wagtails *Rhipidura leucophrys*, Spangled Drongos *Dicrurus bracteatus* and Red-cheeked Parrots *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*. Dark-grey Flycatchers *Myiagra galeata* are also present but can be hard to observe as they frequent the canopy of the larger trees. The partially-cleared forest-garden area, between Wahai and the Manusela Park entrance to the east, is the best site for the endemic and striking Lazuli Kingfisher *Todirhamphus lazuli* which, although noisy and conspicuous here, is apparently absent from large parts of the island, notably from mangrove areas where it is replaced by the Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*. Also found here are two common endemics, the Ashy Flowerpecker *Dicaeum vulneratum* and the Grey-necked Friarbird *Philemon subcorniculatus*. The explosive *pprow* calls of the latter species rapidly betray its presence and are a characteristic sound of the island.

Specialised species of this coastal habitat are the Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* and the Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* which hunt over open areas at the forest edge, although more commonly seen are the Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*, Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis* and Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*, the last species showing a wide altitudinal tolerance on Seram. Some extensive areas of coarse *Imperata* grass exist in old clear-felled areas and these should be checked for the Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*, Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*, Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis* and Rufous-tailed Bush-Hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*, while aerial feeders include the White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus lecorhynchus* and Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*. Small pools in the grass hold Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* which can be remarkably obtrusive.

2. Solea and its environs

From the National Park entrance to Solea the forest is largely secondary and is poor in birds but Blyth's Hornbills *Aceros plicatus* should be seen overhead, together with some of the commoner parrots and pigeons, including the spectacular but inconspicuous Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*.

Solea is a good base from which to explore the lowland rainforest. There are few good paths but the course of the Wae Toluorang can easily be followed during the dry season. Radjah Shelducks *Tadorna radjah* are conspicuous on the river and the riverside *Eucalyptus* trees abound with parrots. Screaming groups of Rainbow Lorikeets *Trichoglossus haematodus* are outnumbered by the dazzling Red Lory *Eos bornea*, and flowering palms should be checked for the diminutive Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis* which is best picked up from its high-pitched 'skeek' contact notes in flight. The larger Eclectus *Eclectus roratus* and Great-billed Parrots *Tanygnathus megalorynchos* both nest here in good numbers, together with the noisy Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* and the inconspicuous but brilliantly-coloured Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis*. At dawn and dusk the far-reaching raucous calls of the endemic and threatened Salmon-crested Cockatoo can be heard as they fly between feeding areas and roost-sites; they are best viewed from the river.

Mixed-species foraging flocks are generally small and infrequent in the lowland rainforest but usually include the common endemic Streaky-breasted Fantail *Rhipidura dedemi*, Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*, Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus affinis*, Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*, Pale Cicadabird *Coracina ceramensis* and the less numerous Slender-billed Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*. Those at the edge of garden areas frequently include the local Black-crowned White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*, while Black and Olive-backed Sunbirds *Nectarinia aspasia* and *jugularis* are also common in these areas. Meyer's Goshawks *Accipiter meyerianus* hunt over the forest and the elusive Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* hunts the forest edge.

The forest here is flooded during the wet season and consequently has little undergrowth. Areas of denser undergrowth on ridges hold Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*, Common Paradise and Variable Kingfishers *Ceyx lepidus*, and the Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*. The last species is extremely wary and is rarely seen, but footprints and droppings indicate its presence.

Trekking upstream is worthwhile to visit areas of less disturbed forest which hold some of the more localised endemics including the showy Long-crested Myna *Basilornis corythaix*, and the aptly named Drab Myzomela *Myzomela blasii* and Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonata*. The latter two species are both inconspicuous tree-top dwellers: the myzomela is most easily seen at flowering trees while the whistler is best located by voice, an oft-repeated cheery warble, delivered somewhat ventriloquially from deep within the canopy.

Grey-necked Friarbirds are abundant in the lowland forest, but it is worth checking all calls as the scarce endemic Grey-collared Oriole *Oriolus forsteni* mimics the Friarbird's calls (its host species), and even resembles it closely in terms of plumage. At dusk Moustached Treeswifts

Hemiprocne mystacea hawk low over the river and are joined by White-bellied and Moluccan Swiftlets *Collocalia esculenta* and *infuscata*. The calls of Large-tailed Nightjars *Caprimulgus macrurus* echo along the river at night. Moluccan Hawk-Owls *Ninox squamipila* begin calling at dusk and can be seen at this time; the more elusive Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus* can also be found but appears to be more exclusively nocturnal.

3. The Enclave

Access to regions of higher elevation formerly involved a long trek on narrow, poorly-defined forest trails. However as logging increases outside of the Park, logging tracks have opened up the interior and it is now possible to take truck-rides to the villages of Kaloa and Wasa before walking into the Enclave along forest trails (see Figure 1). The Enclave valley occupies elevations between 600 and 800 m and is a mixture of secondary forest and garden areas. Villages such as Manusela and Kineke provide bases for exploring the valley and for access to primary forest at higher altitudes.

Long-crested Mynas frequent the enclave and are frequently seen together with the rather local, colonial Island Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*. Fruiting trees are common and attract both Great Cuckoo-Doves *Reinwardtoena reinwardtsi* and Slender-billed Cuckoo-Doves *Macropygia amboinensis* together with imperial pigeons exhibiting chestnut undertail coverts - a feature of the Blue-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula concinna*. The unobtrusive endemic Bicolored White-eye *Tephrozosterops stalkeri* is most commonly seen at the edge of the enclave, often in mixed species foraging flocks. These typically also include Black-crowned and Mountain White-eyes *Zosterops montanus*, Cinnamon-chested Flycatchers *Ficedula buruensis*, Banded Fantails *Rhipidura rufiventris*, Island Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*, the occasional Island Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis* and the recently split Wakolo Myzomela *Myzomela wakolensis*. The scarce Drab Honeyeater can also be seen visiting flowering trees. Areas of more intact forest hold the endemic Purple-naped Lory *Lorius domicella*, the inconspicuous White-bibbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*, Moluccan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina atriceps* and the partially crepuscular Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythrauchen*. Blue-breasted Pittas still occur at these altitudes and are joined, oddly, by Nicobar Pigeons *Caloenas nicobarica* which can be flushed at dawn from forest paths.

4. The Binaia-Merkele ridge and G. Kobipoto.

From Kineke a tortuous, and in places very steep path leads up the northern slope of the Binaia-Merkele ridge eventually reaching the bare summits. A good four days should be allowed for the round trip and a tent is essential as it is both cold and wet at the higher elevations. Water on this limestone massif is scarce and found only at Wae Huhu at 1,200 m, at Wae Puku at 2,100 m and temporarily after rain at 'Chapman's Pool' on the summit ridge at 2,850 m, so it is useful to carry a reserve supply. The trip however is well worthwhile as the avifauna changes markedly above 1,000 m in the mossy, wet lower montane forests.

Typical species of this habitat include flocks of Long-tailed Mountain Pigeons *Gymnophaps mada*, Snowy-browed and Little Pied Flycatchers *Ficedula hyperythra* and *F. westermanni*, and Mountain Tailorbirds *Orthotomus cuculatus*. In areas of dense bamboo-growth on a clay subsoil, the skulking Chestnut-backed Bush-Warblers *Bradypterus castaneus* betray their presence by constantly repeated 'zit-oh-zit' calls. The endemic and rather large Grey-hooded White-eye *Lophozosterops pinaiae* occurs here but is more numerous in the elfin moss forest above 2,500 m, where it is joined by two more montane endemics, the Seram Honeyeater *Lichmera monticola* and the Blue-eared Lory *Eos semilarvata*. The latter two species range widely on the highest peaks feeding on the nectar of scattered ericaceous shrubs. The white-headed Seram race of the Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus* is also common at this altitude.

The lower ridge of Gunung Kobipoto runs parallel to the Merkele ridge and can be ascended by what is, at times, a near-vertical path from the village of Solimena. All the montane species, except for the Island Thrush, can be seen on this ridge, although perhaps less easily than on Binaia as the area above 1,300 m is limited. It can be climbed, however, quite easily in a day and there is a stream near the summit. It also boasts the only recent sighting of the striking Moluccan Thrush *Zoothera dumasi*, of which a group of three were located in dense moss-forest at 1,280 m in August 1987. Picked up initially by their thin 'tseep' contact calls, the birds were tempted into view by imitation of these notes. The unobtrusive Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii* also occurs on this ridge while the nomadic and irruptive Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa* should also be present at times.

5. The coastal strip and offshore islands

Additional species can be seen on the fringes of the national park. Some 10 km west along the coast road from Wahai is Air Merah , a small brackish pool which can be reached by taxi or by hitching a ride. Up to 70 Spotted Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata* frequent the lake together with Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Rufous Night-Herons *Nycticorax caledonicus*, Yellow Bitterns *Ixobrychus sinensis*, Comb-crested Jacanas *Irediparra gallinacea*, White-breasted Waterhens *Amaurornis phoenicurus* and White-browed Crakes *Porzana cinerea*.

Boats can be hired at Wahai to visit small islands off the north coast. Pulau Lusaolate has a pair of Beach Thick-Knees *Burhinus giganteus* and remains the only known site for Olive Honeyeater *Lichmera argentauris* on Seram (although the latter species must surely occur elsewhere in the area). Pulau Sawai and adjacent Pulau Radjah both offer the chance of seeing the local Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*, while in the more extensive remaining native forest on Pulau Sawai the Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus viridis* can be seen. Both islands are good for migrants in September including Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*, Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*, Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* and Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephala*, and in September 1987 a Beach Kingfisher *Todirhamphus saurophaga* (the first record for Seram) was found. The fringing sand-flats of these islands provide good feeding grounds for waders including, amongst the commoner species, good numbers of Grey-tailed Tattlers, occasional Far-eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Little Curlew and Great Knot. Terns and frigatebirds can often be present in large numbers and the occasional Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* may be seen. At dusk there is an impressive flight of fruit bats to the mainland from a roost on Pulau Radjah and the Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* hunts along the mangrove edge.

Scarlet Honeyeater Myzomela sanguinolenta *by Nigel Bean. This species is fairly common from 700-1,400 m in primary and secondary forest on G. Binaia and G. Kobipoto.*

Access requirements

In order to conduct scientific research on Seram a full permit is required from LIPI in Jakarta for which a complete project proposal must be submitted at least six months in advance of any visit. Entry to the Park as a tourist is simpler. A surat jalan permit must first be obtained from the PHPA offices in Ambon and on arrival at Wahai the PHPA office there must also be visited. The Wahai office will supply you with a guide (to be paid on a daily basis) who will be able to take you to your desired destinations.

A visit to Manusela is well worthwhile, not only to see the endemic avifauna in a scenically spectacular and diverse national park but also to promote awareness of this immensely valuable reserve.

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John Bowler, *Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Glos GL2 7BT, U.K.*

John Taylor, *55a Mulford's Hill, Tadley, Hants RG26 63G, U.K.*

The identification of tit-babblers and red sunbirds on Java.

There are still many identification pitfalls when birding in the Orient despite an ever increasing number of field guides being available. In this article Bas van Balen describes how to cope with identification problems with the tit-babblers and red sunbirds on Java.

Apart from some rare and out-of-date books (e.g., van Balen[2] and Kuroda[9]), the field ornithologist on Java had only Delacour's almost unillustrated *Birds of Malaysia* to assist in identification. In 1975 King *et al.*[8] published their *Field guide to birds of South-East Asia,* which covered only part of the local avifauna, and did not describe the endemic species. In 1988 and 1993 MacKinnon[10,11] published his field guides to the birds of Java and Bali, and the Greater Sundas. In particular, the last mentioned work should considerably increase the newcomer's ability to identify all the birds to be encountered in the region. However, there are still a few identification pitfalls regarding a number of sibling pairs which are not properly addressed in the book (see review on page 48-51). In the following paragraphs, I attempt to clarify the special problems raised in the identification of two of these pairs occurring in Java.

Tit-babblers

The Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis* and the endemic Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler *Macronous flavicollis* occur on Java. The latter is represented by two distinct races, *M. f. flavicollis* on the mainland, and *M. f. prillwitzi* on the Kangean Islands. According to Hoogerwerf[7] habitat and range overlap greatly in the two species on Java, but my findings show that there are differences in the species' habitat requirements. The Striped is mainly restricted to coastal woodlands, where it is locally common, especially in mangroves and swamp forest. The Grey-cheeked occupies forest habitats from sea level to 1,600 m, and only sporadically meets the other species in the same localities. Identification is difficult where they occur sympatrically. For example, the plates for these species in MacKinnon[10] and MacKinnon and Phillipps[11] are inadequate, and the text is rather confusing with regard to the races of Grey-cheeked. Moreover, though differences in calls can be distinguished after some experience, vocalizations of the two species are very similar, and the loud 'chuunk, chuunk, chuunk...' call can be heard in both species.

Table 1 gives a summary of the most diagnostic field characters of Javan tit-babblers, and Plate 1 shows these features. On the mainland of Java the clearly visible dark breast streaks of Striped always distinguish this species from the Grey-cheeked, the latter has a pale tawny breast, contrasting with the whitish belly. On Kangean island, where Striped has not been recorded, the unstreaked, uniformly creamy underparts and greyish-brown head are good field characters of the Grey-cheeked (race *prillwitzi*).

	M. gularis	*M. f. flavicollis*	*M. f. prillwitzi*
Crown	chestnut	chestnut-brown	greyish-brown
Breast	bold blackish streaks on yellowish-white	pale fawn with very faint dark streaks	pale yellowish/ creamy, unstreaked
Belly	whitish/grey	whitish/grey	similar colour to the breast

Table 1. Field characters of Javan tit-babblers

Sunbirds

There are four species of *Aethopyga* sunbirds occurring on the Greater Sundas, with three species occurring on Java, namely White-flanked Sunbird *Aethopyga eximia,* Javan Sunbird *A. mystacalis,* and Crimson Sunbird *A. siparaja.* White-flanked Sunbird is endemic to the mountains of Java and is very distinct, offering no problems for field identification. The Javan Sunbird is endemic to the lowlands of Java and Crimson Sunbird is found throughout the Greater Sundas, but is rather localized on Java.

Separating Javan from Crimson Sunbird poses most problems, and is exacerbated by differences in nomenclature and taxonomy in the literature. The Javan Sunbird is regarded by several authorities (e.g. Sibley and Monroe [15,16]) as the nominate race of a species most commonly called Scarlet Sunbird *Aethopyga mystacalis,* with the other race *A. m. temminckii* being restricted to Borneo and Sumatra. The two forms are very distinct as Mees[13] pointed out, whilst citing Chasen[3]: 'In some respects

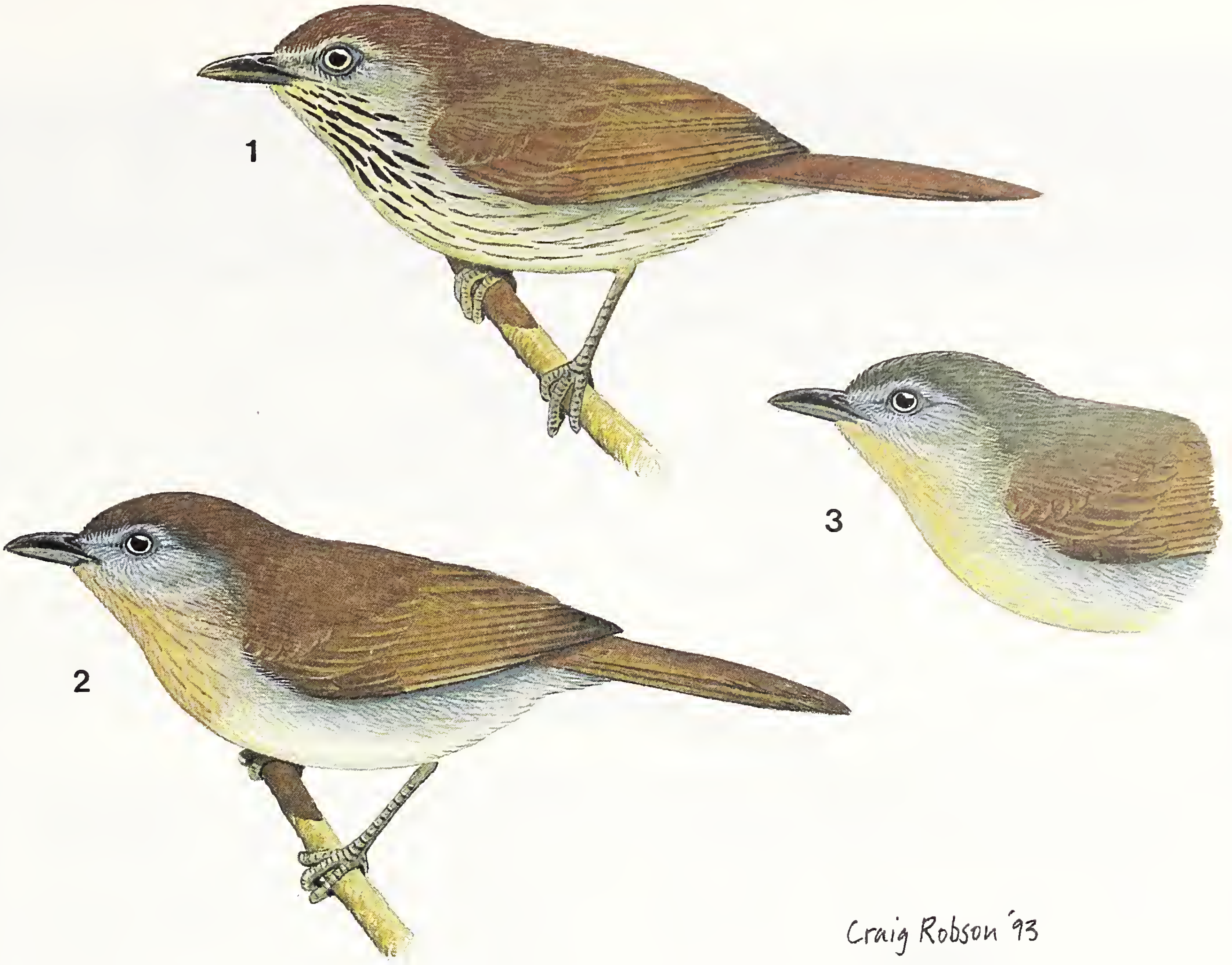

Plate 1. Javan tit-babblers by Craig Robson. **1.** Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis javanicus*. **2.** Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler *M. flavicollis*: the nominate race. **3.** *M. flavicollis prillwitzi* of the Kangean Islands. It should be noted that the soft part colouration are quite variable on babblers of this genus. This plate was based on museum specimens, photographs and published descriptions.

mystacalis and *siparaja* seem closer than do *mystacalis* and *temmincki*, but *mystacalis* and *siparaja* occur together in West Java'. Treating them as separate species is followed by Andrew[1] and MacKinnon and Phillips[11].

The english names of the two species, *Aethopyga mystacalis* and *A. temminckii*, are far from consistent. The Javan endemic *mystacalis* is named Javan Sunbird in Sibley and Monroe[16], Scarlet Sunbird in MacKinnon and Phillipps[11], and Violet-tailed in Andrew[1]. *A. temminckii* is named Temminck's Sunbird by MacKinnon and Phillips[11], and Scarlet Sunbird by Andrew[1] and Sibley and Monroe[15,16]. However, the names Violet-tailed and Scarlet are not the most appropriate for *A. mystacalis*: Violet-tailed (the Crimson Sunbird on Java also has a violet/purple tail); Scarlet (Scarlet versus Crimson is not useful for birds with a similar shade of red). Thus, I prefer Javan Sunbird for *A. mystacalis* and Temminck's Sunbird for *A. temminckii* .

The Javan race of Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja heliogona* was dismissed by Mees[13] as synonymous with the nominate race occurring in Malaysia, Borneo and Sumatra. He based this on plumage features and measurements which revealed no significant differences. However, looking at descriptions of specimens in various publications, it seems that tail colour and shape are more variable than would be expected within one race. The following have all been described for the birds occurring in Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra and Java: black (Strange and Jeyarajasingam[17]), glossy-green (MacKinnon[10], plate 38), metallic purplish-blue (Madoc[12]), metallic blue (MacKinnon and Phillipps[11]), or purple (Hails and Jarvis[5]), with elongated central feathers (Kuroda[9]; King *et al.*[8], plate 62; Hails and Jarvis *op.cit.*; Holmes and Nash[6]) or notched (King *et al. op.cit.*, text). Crimson Sunbird does not have elongated central feathers: Robinson and Kloss[14] questioned Crimson's elongated tail feathers as far back as 1926 and Mees[13] discussed the origin of the error.

Mees[13] summarized the most important taxonomic features of *A. mystacalis*, *A. temminckii* and *A.*

siparaja, but this publication is not widely available and, clearly, existing field guides are not conclusive about field identification of the two red sunbirds on Java. Thus, I have summarised the most important features that are visible in the field of the male plumages of the three red sunbirds occurring on the Greater Sundas in Table 2 and Figure 2.

	siparaja	*mystacalis*	*temminckii*
forehead	purple	purple with tiny red above the bill	red fringed laterally with purple
crown	dark red	purple	purple
mantle/ nape/back	dark red	dark red	red
tail	purple	purple	red
belly	dark grey	greyish white	greyish white

Table 2. Field characters in male red sunbirds Aethopyga *spp. of the Greater Sundas.*

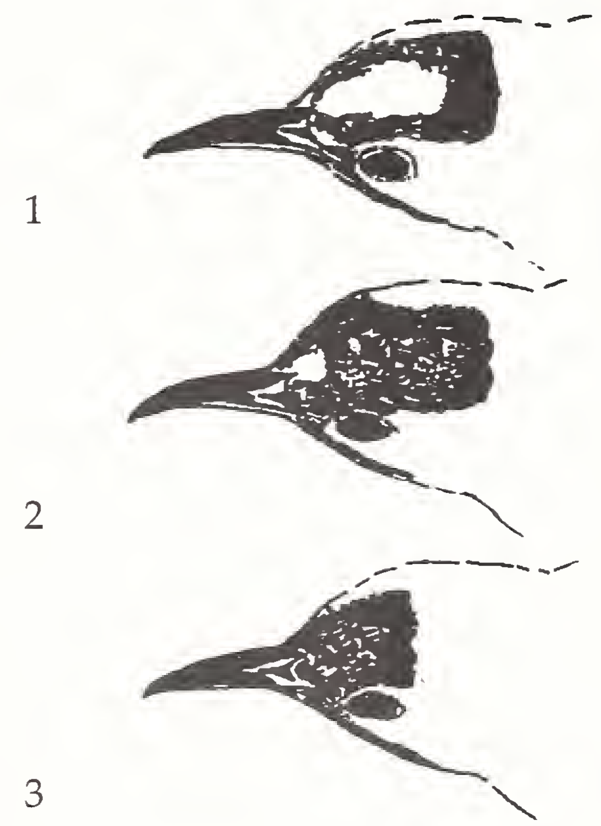

Figure 2 Head studies of three species of red sunbirds in the Greater Sundas.

1) Crimson Sunbird Aethopyga siparaja, *2) Javan Sunbird* A. mystacalis, *3) Temminck's Sunbird* A. temminckii. *The blackened parts on the heads indicate purple, the white parts red (after skins in the Bogor Zoological Museum).*

The red tails and forehead and bright red upperparts (instead of dark red) of the *temminckii,* make it distinct from the Crimson, where they co-occur (in Borneo Crimson is a montane species). The red in Javan's forehead is restricted to a tiny red spot above the bill, not covering the entire forehead as suggested by MacKinnon and Phillipps[11] (Plate 83), and thus is not a very useful field character. Purple extends over the crown on Javan, whereas in the Crimson it ends above the eyes. Other useful characters are the dark grey belly of Crimson, as opposed to whitish in Javan, and the tail is notched in Crimson but long and pointed in Javan. Finally, the most distinctive call (song?) of Javan Sunbird is an endlessly repeated, cricket-like 'treep, treep, ...' uttered from the top of a tree by the male, whereas the song of the male Crimson is a phrase of metallic, twittering notes.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the director and staff of the Zoological Museum for permitting access to their bird skin collection. I am especially grateful to Craig Robson for his excellent painting of the tit-babblers.

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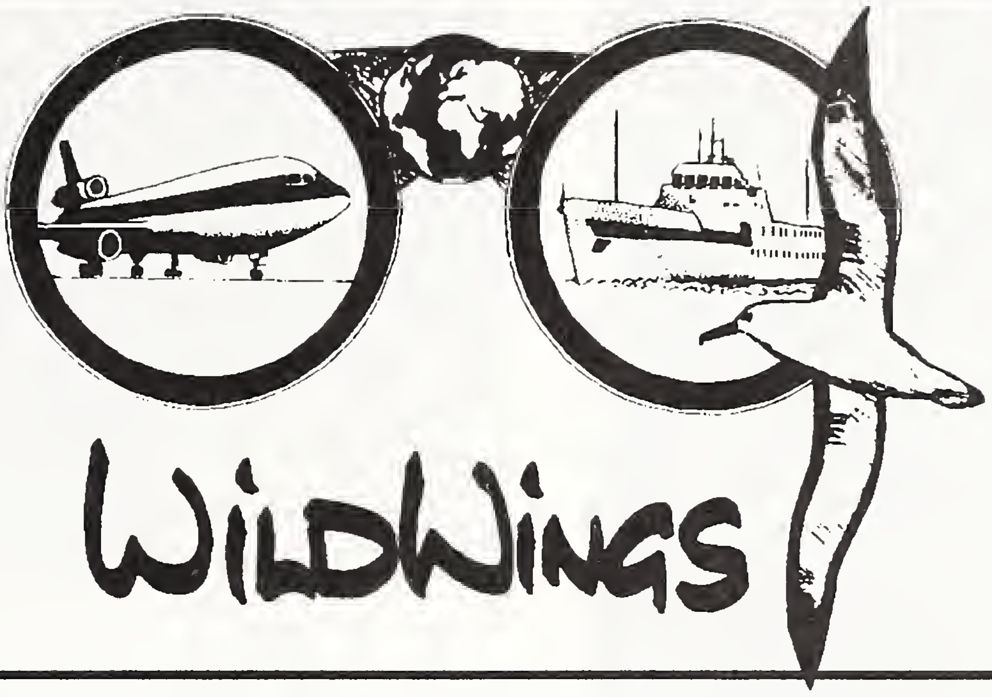
'A great way to fly...'



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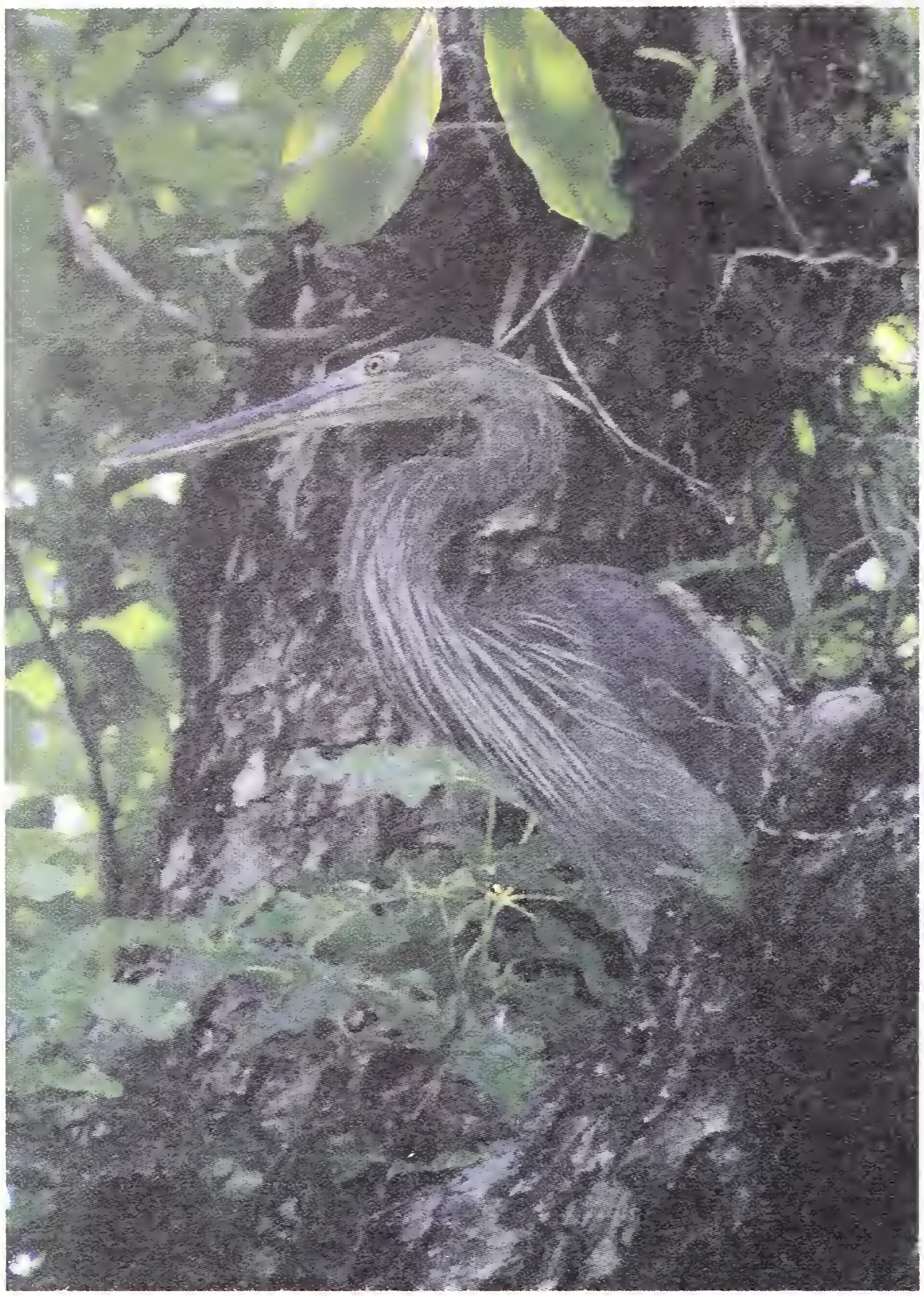

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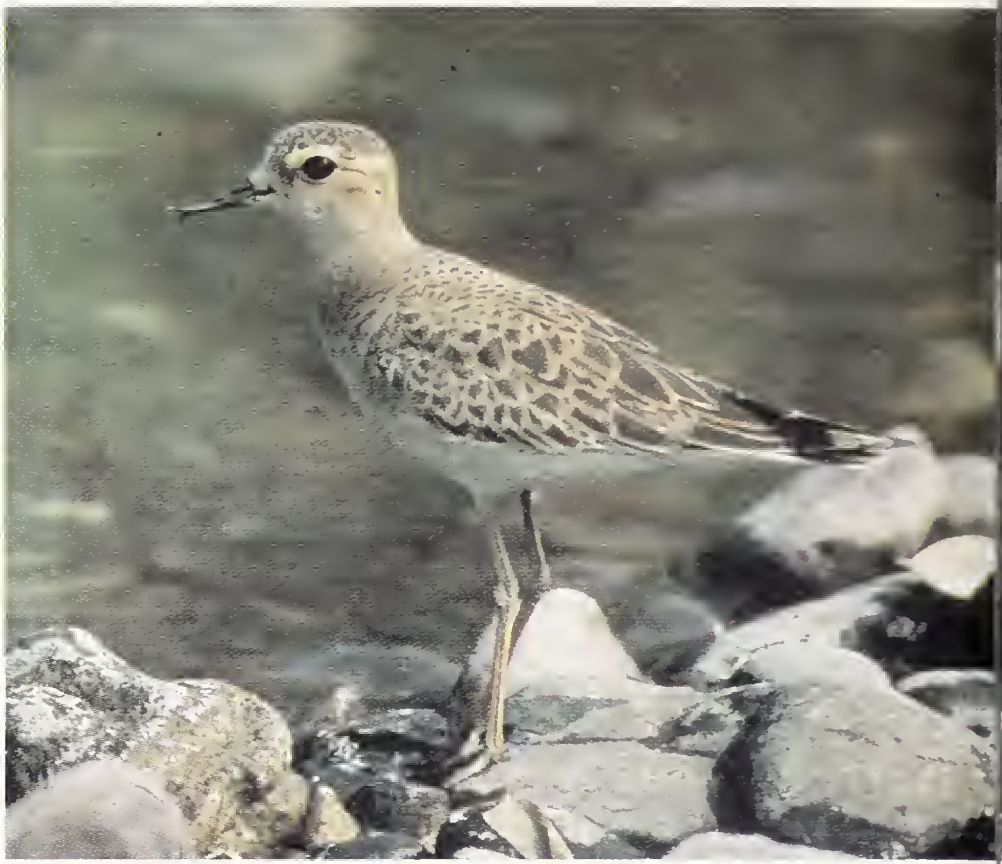
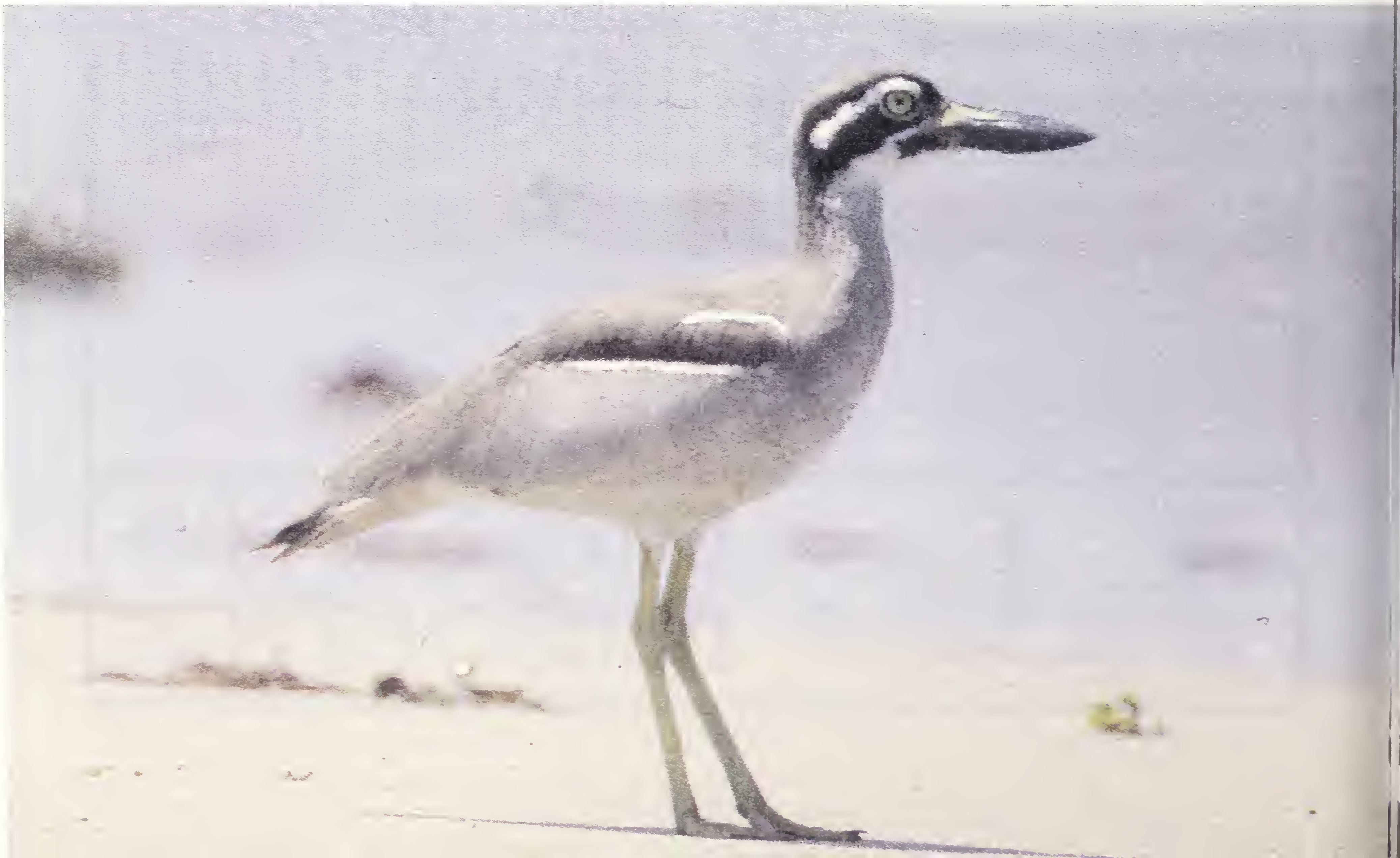


2

There are several species which are characteristic of coastal areas of Indonesia **(1)** The Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* is widely distributed throughout South-East Asia and the Malay Archipelago, but nowhere is it common (Photo: Jon Hornbuckle). **(2)** The Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* breeds in East Asia in Siberia through to Inner Mongolia, and it winters in Indonesia through to Australia. This bird, photographed on the Sula Islands has a deformed bill (Photo: Nigel Bean). **(3)** Beach Thick-knee *Burhinus giganteus* is a resident along large rivers and sandy beaches throughout much of Indonesia (Photo Charles Davies).

3



INDONESIA
Birding itineraries

ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB

Birding in Indonesia

For the birdwatcher, Indonesia is an exciting and rewarding country to visit having a high level of avian diversity coupled with many species endemic to it. Endemism is particularly pronounced in Sulawesi, the Moluccas (Maluku) and Lesser Sundas (Nusa Tenggara) which form the transitional zone, known as Wallacea, where the Sundanese and Australo-Papuan biogeographic regions meet. However, other areas also have their own endemics and Java and Bali for example have 29 of their own.

Visiting birdwatchers can contribute significantly to the conservation of Indonesian birds by submitting their records to the Indonesian section of BirdLife International and to the Indonesian Ornithological Society. Our knowledge on the status, distribution and habitats of many species is still poor, particularly on the smaller, less-known islands or areas away from the major reserves.

Despite the continued growth and spread of the human population and the rapid rate of development, the archipelago still has many well preserved natural habitats. Java, Bali and Sulawesi, whilst extensively deforested have a number of national parks providing excellent opportunities for observing birds. Further east in the Lesser Sundas and Moluccas there are fewer protected areas, but sufficient habitat remains to enjoy the majority of this region's birds.

Recent moves by the Indonesian government to encourage tourism and continued improvement in transport and accommodation facilities make it relatively easy to get to all but the remotest areas. There is a well developed internal flight network (run by Merpati) and a good internal boat network (run by PELNI). Even so, Indonesia is an enormous country (with many EBAs) and a visit of several months duration would be necessary to see a comprehensive selection of its endemic birds. For most people, restricted by perhaps a month of holiday, the best strategy is to make several visits to Indonesia, concentrating on a specific region of the country.

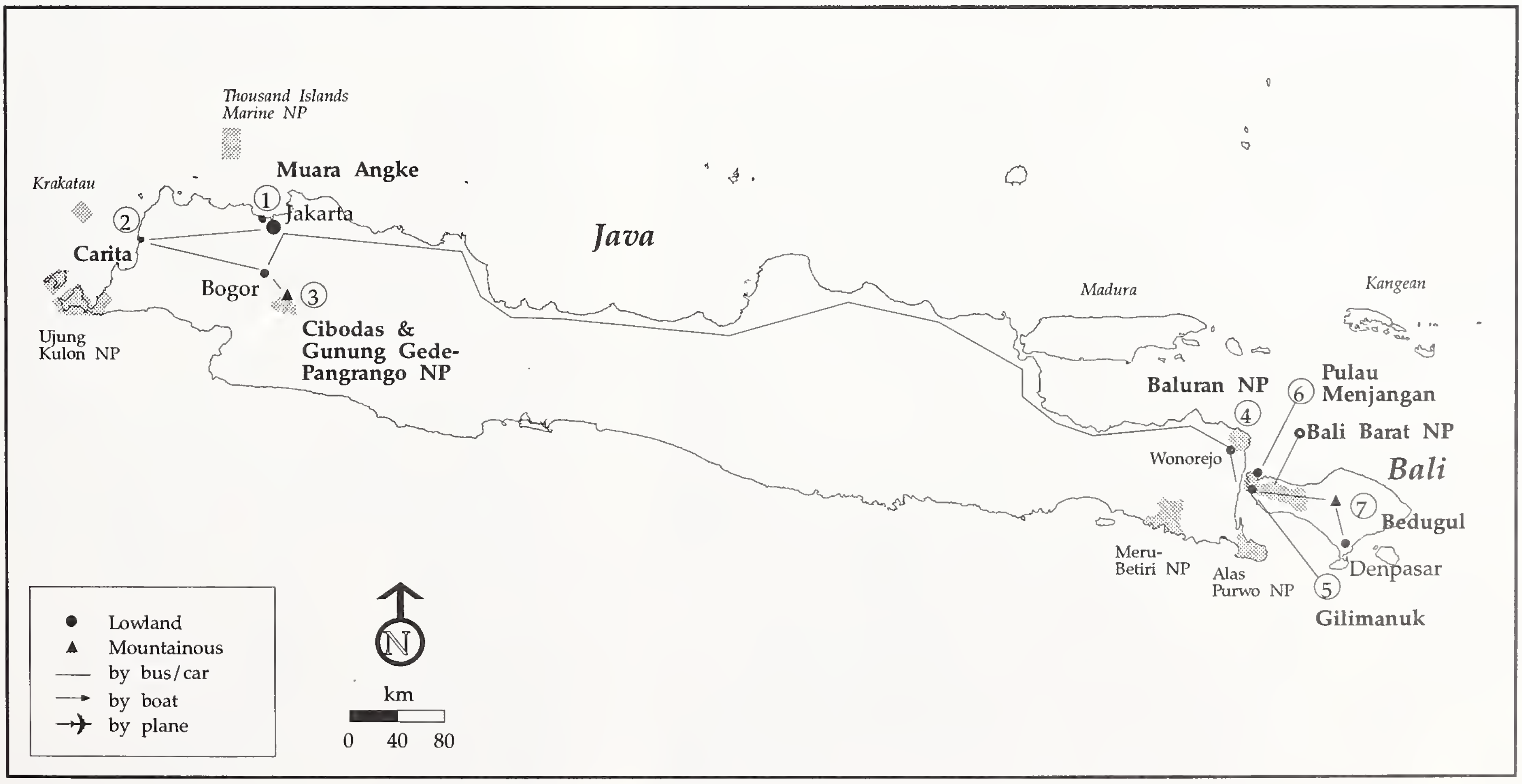
The following itineraries for Java and Bali, Sulawesi and Halmahera, the Lesser Sundas and the Moluccas have been compiled for the visitor on a short vacation. It is hoped that they will encourage more people to go and experience the wonderful birdlife that Indonesia offers.

N.B. *Falciparum* malaria occurs in East Indonesia, and it can be fatal. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers, and after dusk use an insect repellent, and a mosquito net or coils while sleeping. Make sure that you have up-to-date advice from your doctor before travelling.

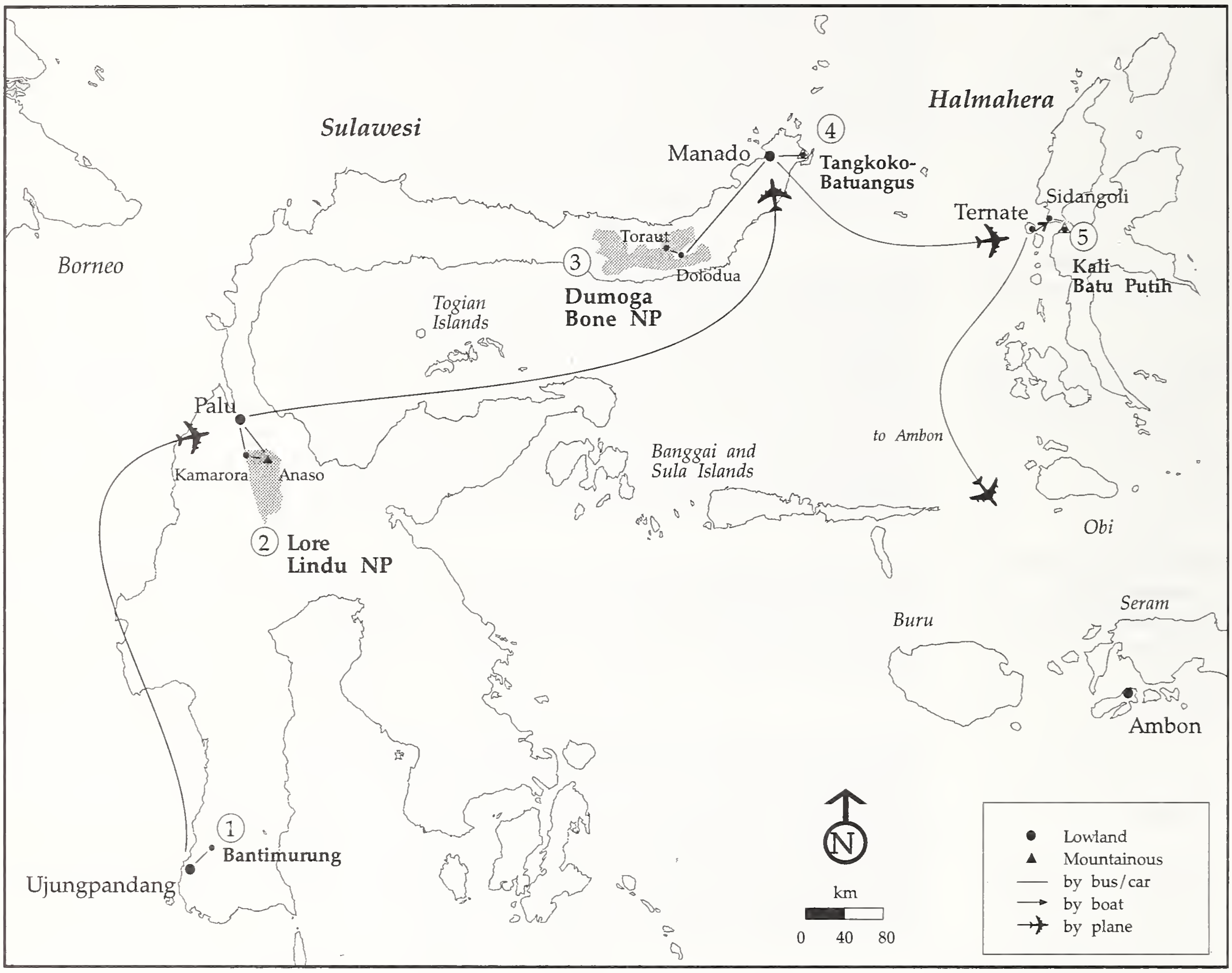
Java and Bali

Day	Birds	Notes
1 Arrive **Jakarta** • taxi **Muara Angke**, early am or pm best	Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo coerulescens*, Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*, Sunda Coucal *Centropus nigrorufus* (?), Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*, Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus*, Milky Stork *Mycteria cinerea*, Black-winged Starling *Sturnus melanopterus*, Clamorous Reed-Warbler*Acrocephalus stentoreus*, Chestnut Munia *Lonchura ferruginosa*.	Overnight in **Jakarta** after pm visit Travel to **Carita** after am visit
2 Travel to **Carita** • pm bird **Carita** 3 **Carita** 4 am **Carita** until mid morning • bus to **Bogor** • bus to **Cibodas**	Black-banded Barbet *Megalaima javensis*, Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris*, Javan Owlet *Glaucidium castanopterum*, Javan Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi*, Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana*, Chestnut-capped Thrush *Zoothera interpres*, Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias olivacea*, Bar-winged Prinia *Prinia familiaris*, Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*, White-breasted Babbler *Stachyris grammiceps*, Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler *Macronous flavicollis*.	Whilst in **Bogor** buy ticket to **Banyuwangi** with Lorena Company
5 **Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park** bird low altitude 6 **Gede-Pangrango** am Cibeureum (waterfall) • pm Kandang Badak	Chestnut-bellied Partridge *Arborophila javanica*, Brown-throated Barbet *Megalaima corvina*, Orange-fronted Barbet *M. armillaris*, Blue-tailed Trogon *Harpactes reinwardtii*, Waterfall Swift *Hydrochous gigas*, Volcano Swiftlet *Collocalia vulcanorum*, Javan Scops-Owl *Otus angelinae*, Rajah Scops-Owl *O. brookii*, Salvadori's Nightjar *Caprimulgus pulchellus*, Sumatran Green-Pigeon *Treron oxyura*, Pink-headed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus porphyreus*, Rufous Woodcock *Scolopax saturata*, Javan Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi*, Sunda Minivet *Pericrocotus miniatus*, Rufous-tailed Fantail *Rhipidura phoenicura*, White-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura euryura*, Sunda Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus glaucinus*, Sunda Thrush *Zoothera andromedae*,	See **Birdwatching Areas** in *OBC Bulletin* 15 Stay at Kandang Badak Hut

Day	Birds	Notes
7 **Gede-Pangrango** to crater, alpine meadow • walk down	Horsfield's Thrush *Z. horsfieldi*, Sunda Robin *Cinclidium diana*, Sunda Forktail *Enicurus velatus*, Javan Cochoa *Cochoa azurea*, Pygmy Tit *Psaltria exilis*, Sunda Bulbul *Hypsipetes virescens*, Orange Spotted Bulbul *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*, Javan Grey-throated White-eye *Lophozosterops javanicus*, Javan Tesia *Tesia superciliaris*, Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcania*, Sunda Warbler *Seicercus grammiceps*, Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufifrons*, White-bibbed Babbler *Stachyris thoracica*, Crescent-chested Babbler *S. melanothorax*, Javan Fulvetta *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*, Spotted Crocias *Crocias albonotatus*, White-flanked Sunbird *Aethopyga eximia*, Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch *Erythrura hyperythra*, Pin-tailed Parrotfinch *E. prasina*, Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae*.	Good site to see Javan Stink Badger *Mydaus javanensis* Javan Gibbon *Hylobates moloch*
8 **Gede-Pangrango** low altitude		
9 **Gede-Pangrango** until 09h00 bus to **Bogor** • bus to **Bali** • bus leaves **Bogor** at 12h00 and 14h00 Depart bus at **Wonorejo** before ferry point to **Bali**		
10 Arrive **Wonorejo** c. 08h00 • **Baluran National Park**	Green Junglefowl *Gallus varius*, Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus*, Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo coerulescens*, Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris*, Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*, Island Collared-Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata*, Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana*, Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicincta*, Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana*, White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*, Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigaster*, Black-winged Starling *Sturnus melanopterus*, Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*, Crescent-chested Babbler *Stachyris melanothorax*, Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler *Macronous flavicollis*, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trochileum*, Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*.	Accomodation in park. Take your own food
11 **Baluran National Park** am • **(BALI) Gilimanuk** pm bird area north of town		Good site to see Bangeng *Bos javanicus*, Timor Deer*Cervus timorensis*, Indian Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak*
12 **Gilimanuk** am **Labuan Lalang - Pulau Menjangan** • late pm bus to **Menewi**	Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*, Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicincta*, Beach Thick-knee *Burhinus giganteus*, White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*, Black-winged Starling *Sturnus melanopterus*, Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris*, Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*.	Good accomodation in Gilimanuk
13 **Bedugul**	Orange-fronted Barbet *Megalaima armillaris*, Yellow-throated Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus pusillus*, Grey-cheeked Green-Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*, Black-backed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus cinctus*, Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula lacernulata*, Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*, Sunda Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus glaucinus*, Sunda Thrush *Zoothera andromedae*, Javan Grey-throated White-eye *Lophozosterops javanicus*, Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcania*, Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi*, Sunda Warbler *Seicercus grammiceps*, Indonesian Honeyeater *Lichmera limbata*.	Good accomodation in village
14 **Bedugul**		Explore botanical gardens and forest above lake
15 **Bedugul** am • **Denpasar**		

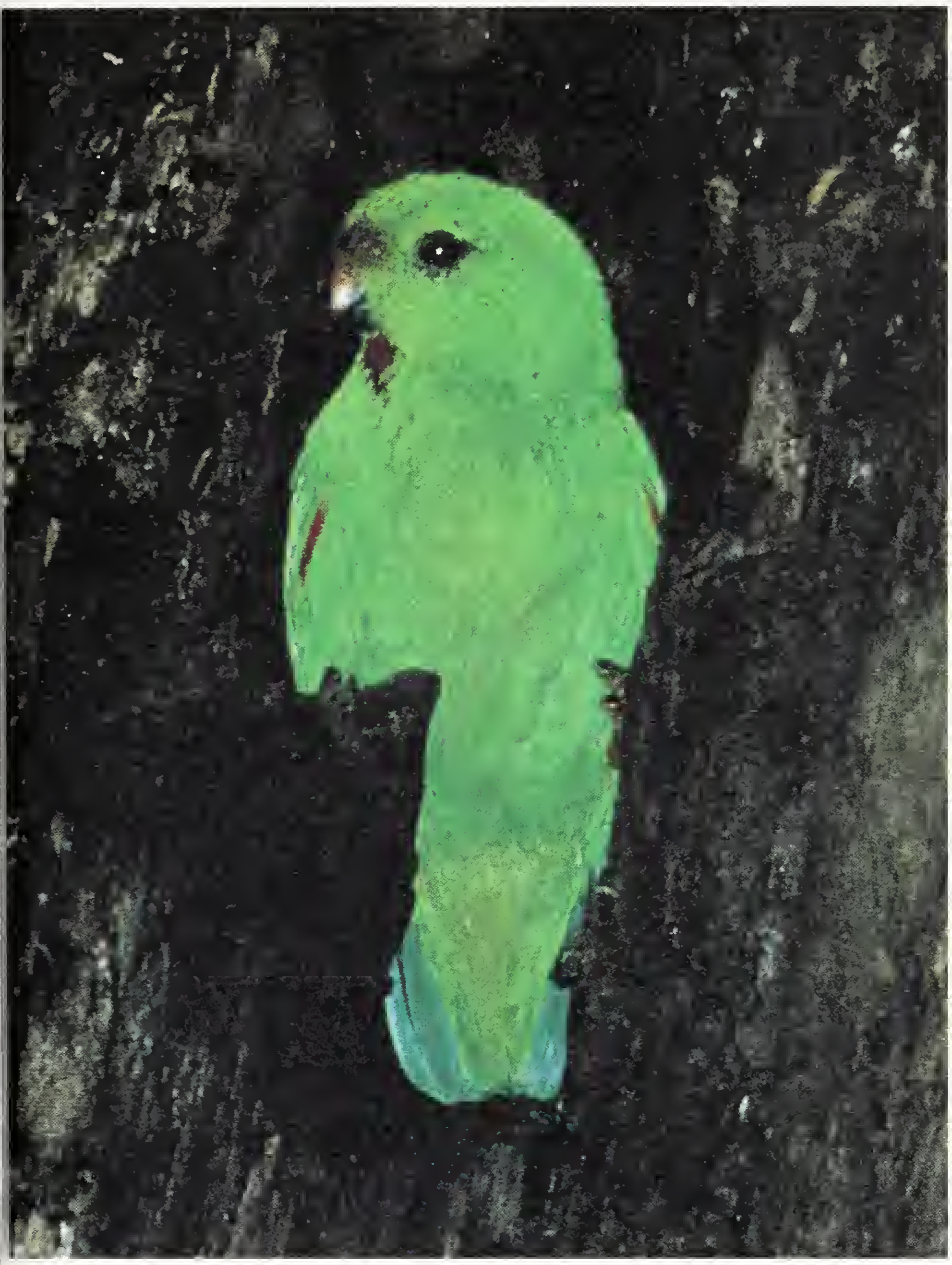


Sulawesi and Halmahera



Day	Birds	Notes
1 **Denpasar** • fly am to **Ujung Pandang** • pm bus to **Bantimurung** nature reserve	Red-billed Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus exilis*, White Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*, Lemon-throated White-eye *Zosterops anomalus*, Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida*.	
2 **Ujung Pandang** • fly am to Palu • arrange transport to **Anaso** with PHPA • bird around airport		4WD hire through Rolex Lamenda from Sub Balai Konservasi Sumberdaya Alam (SBKSDA) on Jalai Moh. Yamin
3 Travel to **Anaso** in **Lore Lindu National Park** with 4WD	Scaly Kingfisher *Actenoides princeps*, Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*, Yellow-and-green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*, Speckled Hawk-Owl *Ninox punctulata*, Red-eared Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri*, Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula radiata*, Sombre Pigeon *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoa*, Sulawesi Woodcock *Scolopax celebensis*, Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera*, Dark-eared Myza *Myza celebensis*, White-eared Myza *Myza sarasinorum*, Olive-flanked Whistler *Hylocitrea bonensis*, Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni*, Sulphur-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*, Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina temminckii*, Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina abbotti*, Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*, Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*, Geomalia *Geomalia heinrichi*, Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides*, Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna*, Blue-fronted Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli*, Flame-browed Myna *Enodes erythrophris*, Malia *Malia grata*,	
4 **Anaso**		See **Birdwatching Areas** in *OBC Bulletin* 11
5 **Anaso** • walk **Danau Tambing**		Either camp at Anaso summit or commute from Kamarora with 4WD.
6 **Danau Tambing**		Either camp at lakeside shelters or commute from Kamarora with 4WD.
7 Walk 12 km down to **Dongi Dongi** for pm		

(1) Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis*. This species ranges through the Wallacean part of Indonesia on the islands of Peleng, Banggai, Sula, Sangihe, Halmahera and Bacan (Photo: Nigel Bean). **(2)** A Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni* eating a bee. The species is the sole member of its genus, and is surely one of the most beautiful of Sulawesi's endemics (Photo: John Warham).



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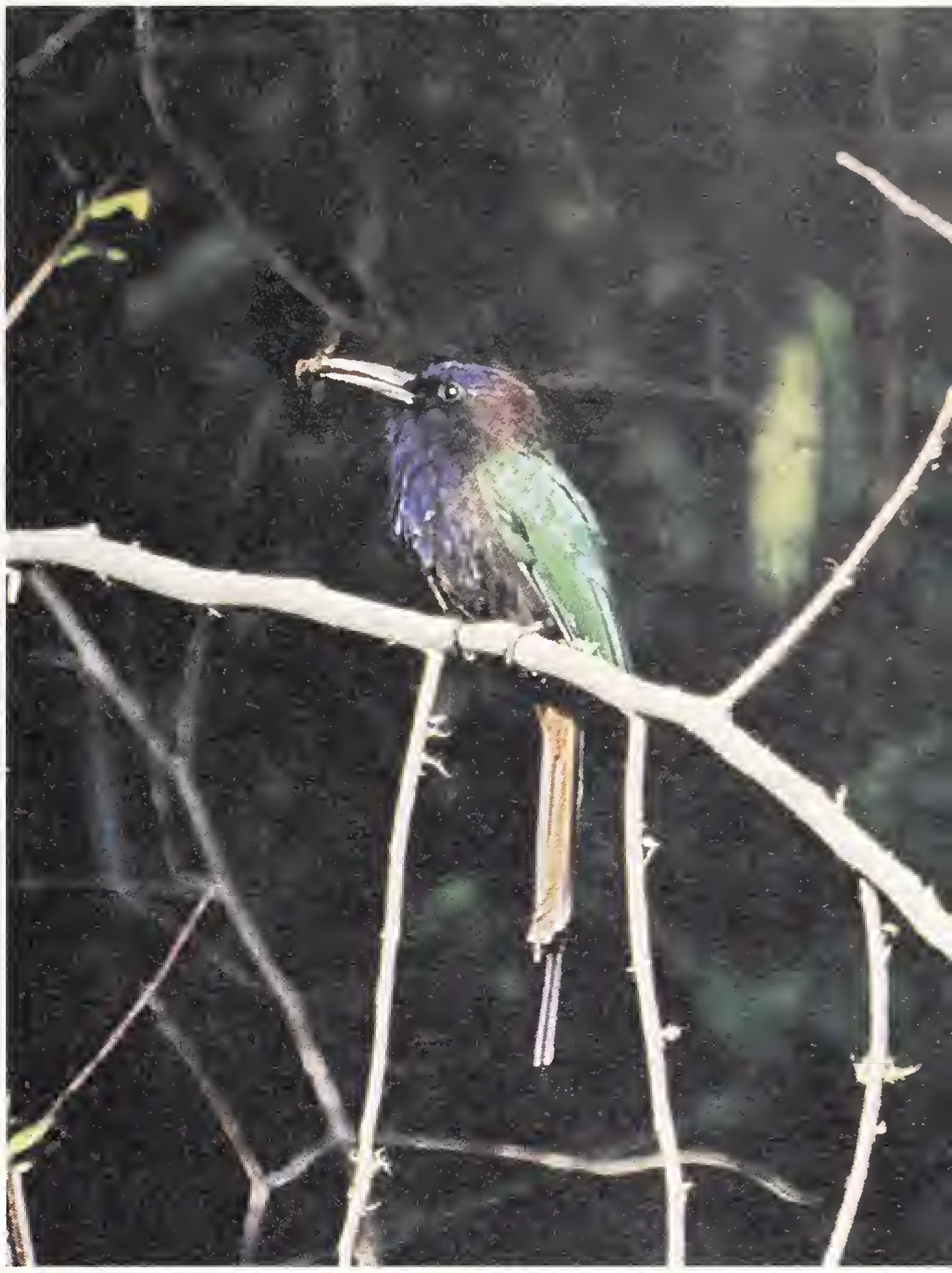

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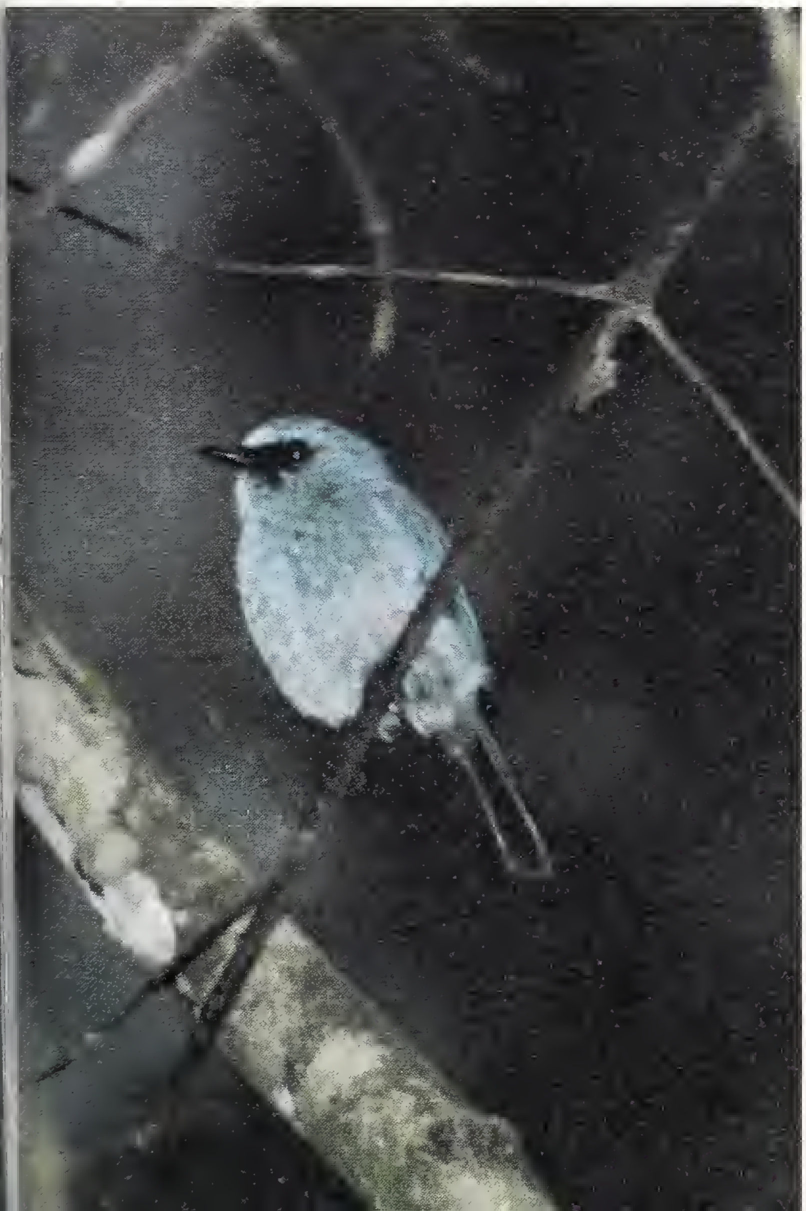
(3) The Island Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis* is distributed widely throughout the Malay Archipelago from the Philippines to Sulawesi and the southern Moluccas (Photo: Frank Lambert). **(4)** The Black-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus melanospila* is one of the most widespread fruit-doves in the region occurring throughout much of the Malay Archipelago (Photo: Nigel Bean).

3



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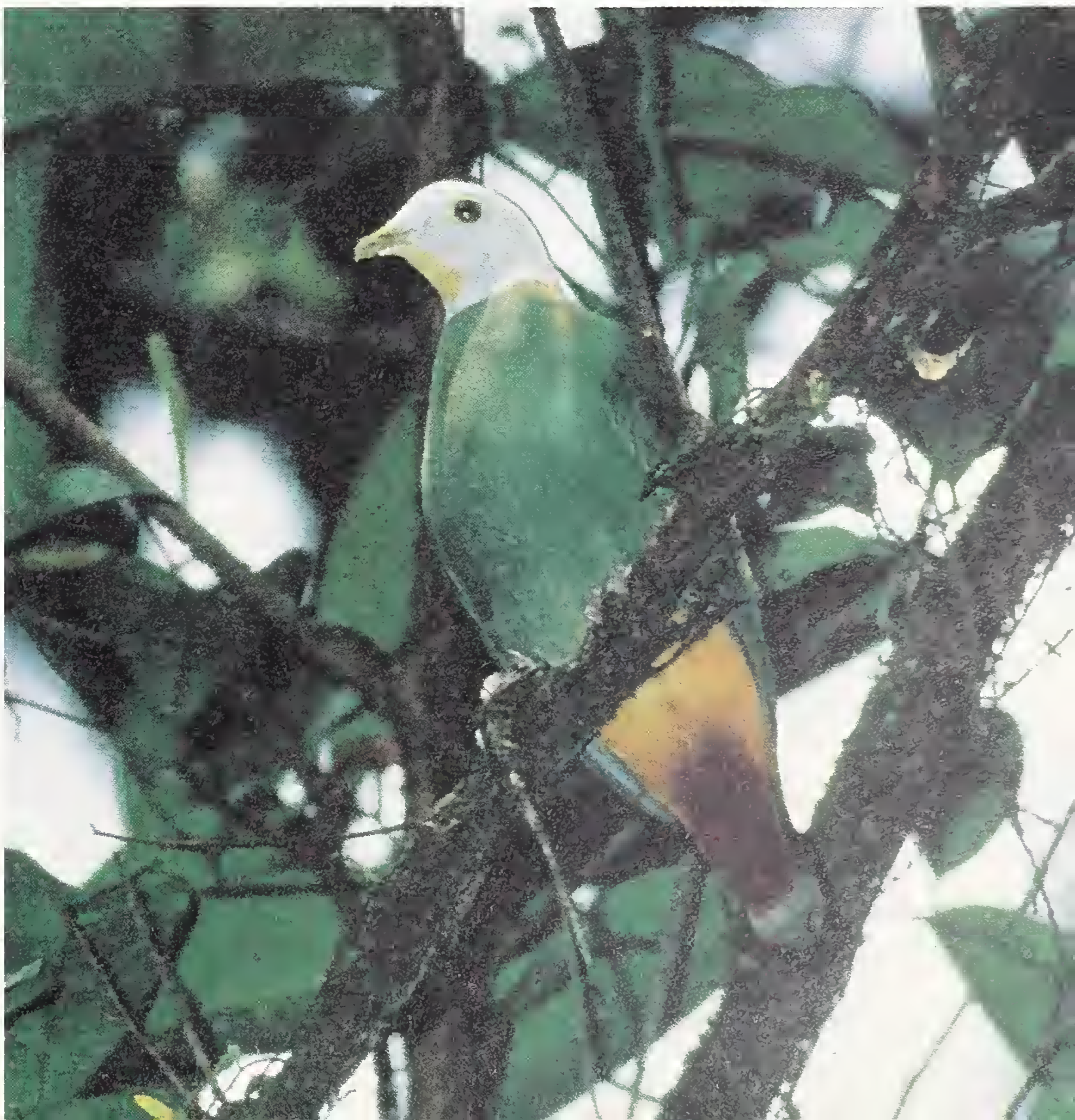

Day	Birds	Notes
	Streaky-headed White-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps*, Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus*, Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum*, Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni*, Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae*.	
8 Overnight at **Dongi Dongi** • am around **Dongi Dongi** then bus (11h00 or 15h00) to **Kamarora**	Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii*, Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus crassirostris*, Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus*, Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus*, Ochre-bellied Hawk-Owl *Ninox ochracea*, Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*, Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus*, Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus*, Piping Crow *Corvus typicus*, Sulawesi Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus*, Sulawesi Myna *Basilornis celebensis*,	Either camp at Dongi Dongi or commute from Kamarara with 4WD.
9 **Kamarora** 10 **Kamorora** 11 **Kamarora** am, leave **Lore Lindu N.P.** • pm bus to **Palu**	Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo*, Sulawesi Woodpecker *Dendrocopos temminckii*, Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus*, Sulawesi Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*, Knobbed Hornbill *Aceros cassidix*, Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii*, Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus*, Black-billed Koel *Eudynamys melanorhyncha*, Yellow-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyorhynchus*, Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis*, Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*, Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus*, Red-billed Hanging-Parrot *L.exilis*, Ochre-bellied Hawk-Owl *Ninox ochracea*, White-faced Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena manadensis*, Maroon-chinned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus subgularis*, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni*, Snoring Rail *Aramidopsis plateni*, Bald-faced Rail *Gymnocrex rosenbergii*, Isabelline Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellinus*, Barred Honey-buzzard *Pernis celebensis*, Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus*, Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus*, Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*, Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*, Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota*, Rufous-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula rufigula*, White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*, Finch-billed Myna *Scissirostrum dubium*, Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense*.	Excellent accommodation at park HQ.
12 **Palu** am fly to **Manado** • pm bus to **Dolodua** in **Dumoga Bone National Park** 13 **Dolodua** 14 **Dolodua** am • pm bus to **Toraut**	Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus*, Sulawesi Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*, Knobbed Hornbill *Aceros cassidix*, Sulawesi Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax*, Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*, Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus*, Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus*, Red-billed Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus exilis*, White-faced Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena manadensis*, White Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*, Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*, Isabelline Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellinus*, Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*, Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*, White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*, Finch-billed Myna *Scissirostrum dubium*, Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense*.	Excellent accommodation.
15 **Toraut** 16 **Toraut** 17 **Toraut** am • pm bus to **Tambun**	Sulawesi Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax*, Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*, Black-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*, Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus*, Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*, Minahassa Masked-Owl *Tyto inexspectata*, Sulawesi Owl *T. rosenbergii*, Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Otus manadensis*, Sulawesi Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba tristigmata*, Ivory-backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus*, Pied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina bicolor*, Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota*, Rufous-throated Flycatcher *Ficedula rufigula*, Sulawesi Myna *Basilornis celebensis*.	Excellent accommodation.
18 **Tambun** am • rest of day travel to **Manado** by bus	Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo*, White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorynchus*, White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*.	Overnight in PHPA hut or camp.
19 **Manado** • bus to **Tangkoko Batuangus** nature reserve 20 **Tangkoko Batuangus** 21 **Tangkoko Batuangus** early am 22 **Tangkoko Batuangus** am • pm bus to **Manado**	Tabon Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*, Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii*, Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*, Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*, Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus*, Scaly Kingfisher *A. princeps*, Black-billed Koel *Eudynamys melanorhyncha*, Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus*, Yellowish-breasted Racquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans*, Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *P. platurus*, White Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*, Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*, Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps*, Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk *A. rhodogaster*, White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina leucopygia*, Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota*.	Excellent accommodation. Good area to see Greater Sulawesi Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* and Bear Phalanger

The Oriental Bird Club

Registered Charity 297242

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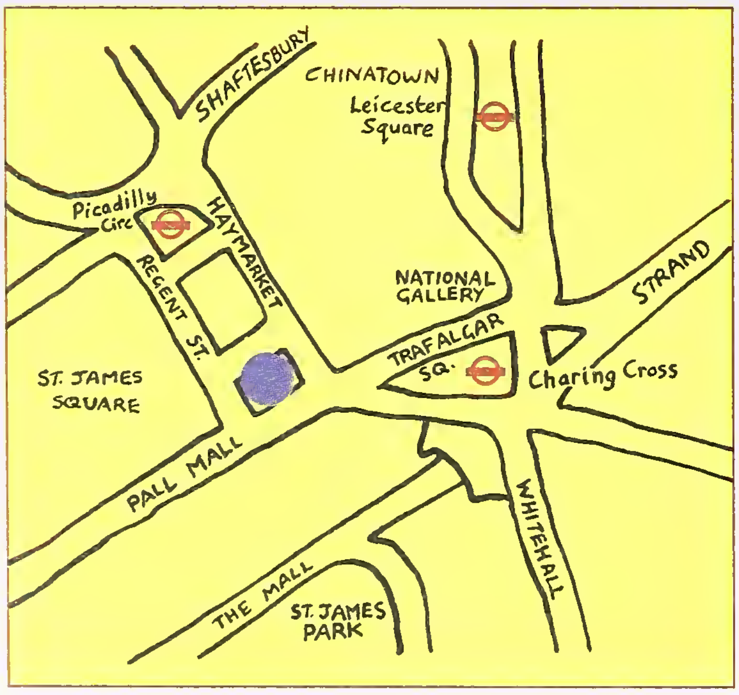

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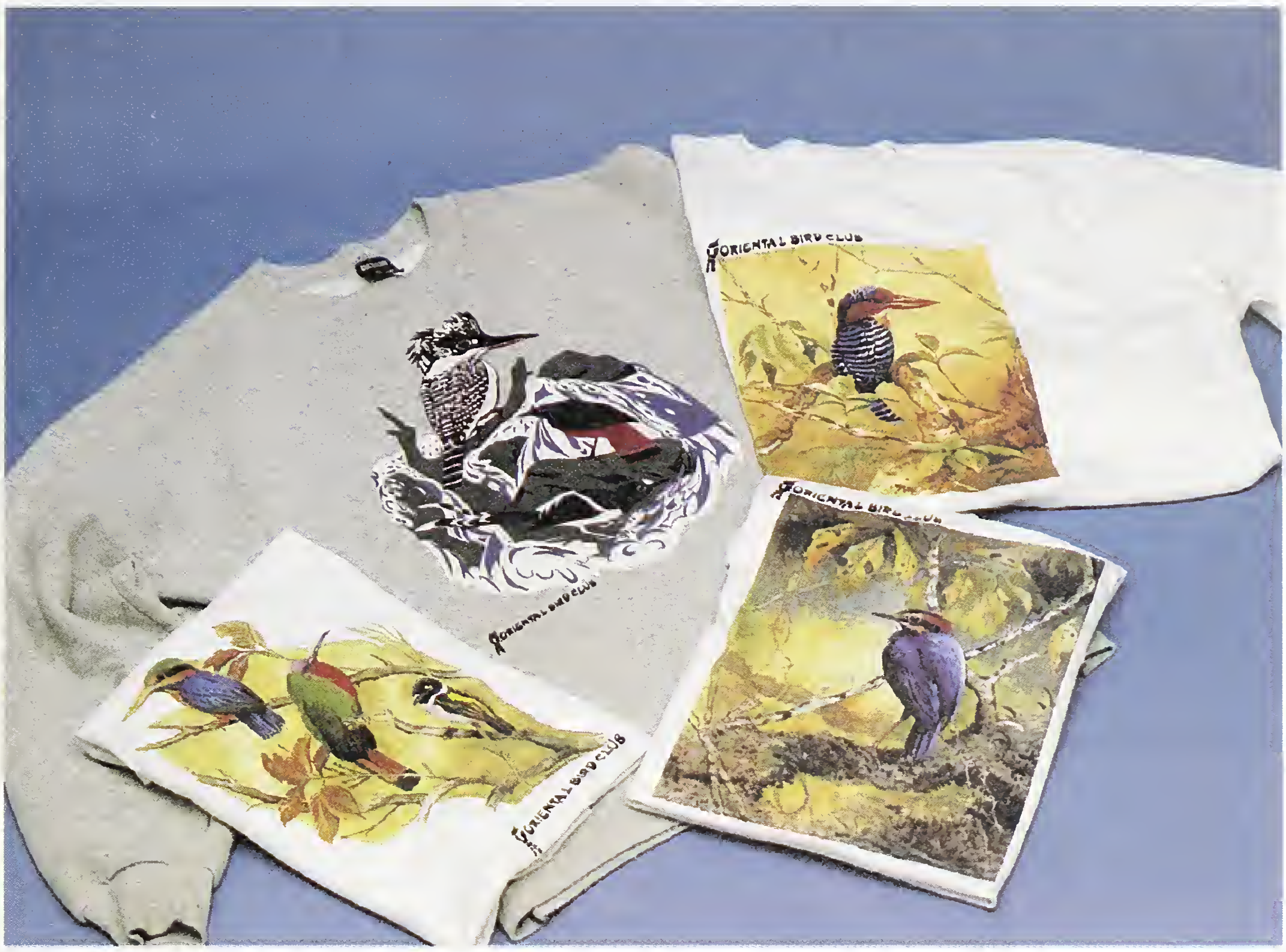

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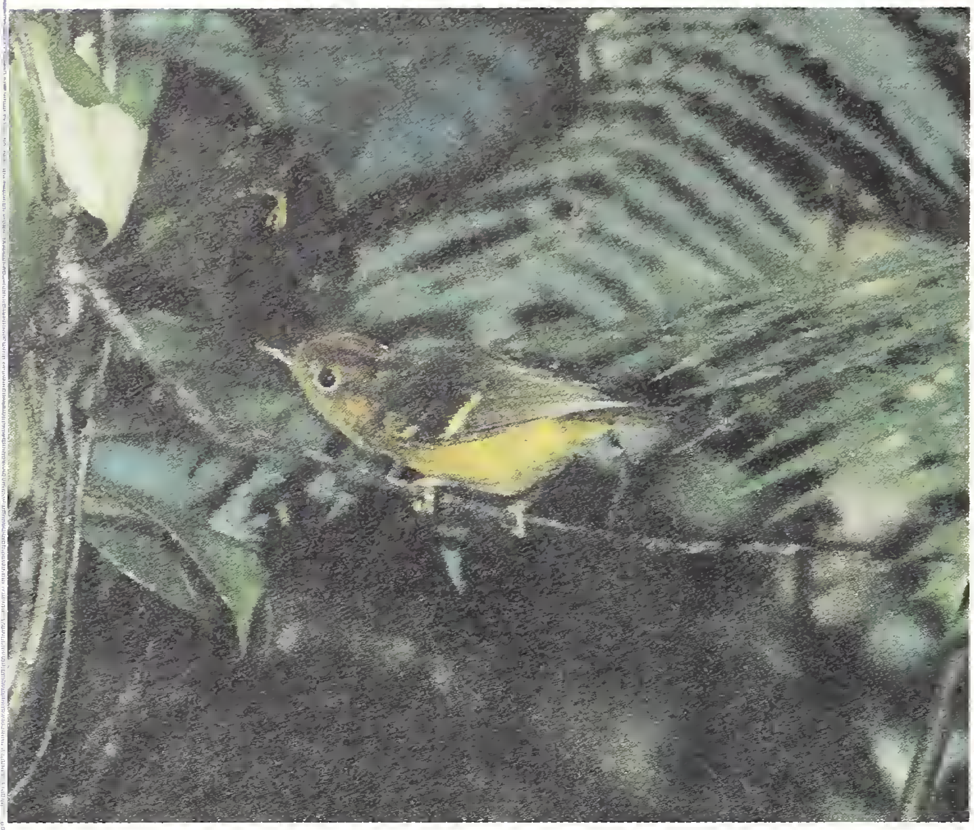
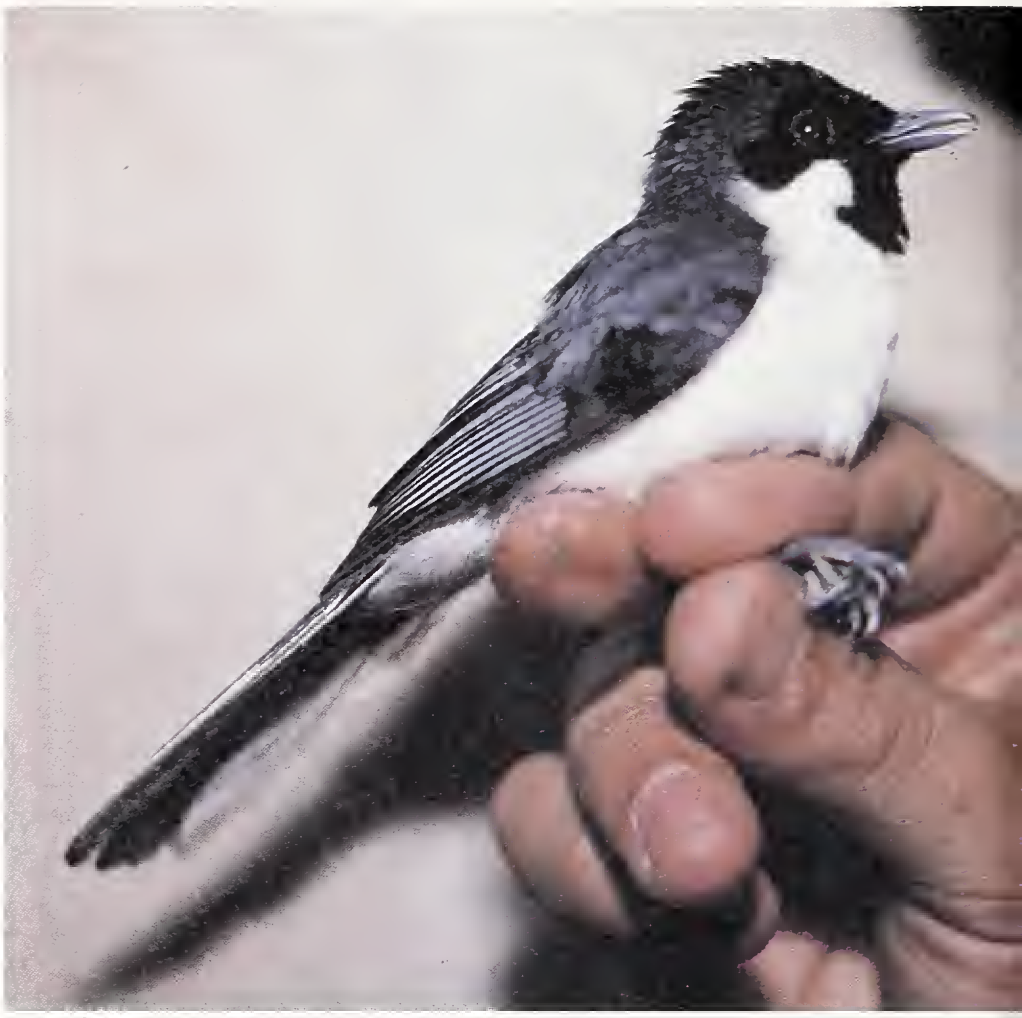
Day		Birds	Notes
23	**Manado** • fly to **Ternate (HALMAHERA)**	Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*, Purple Roller *Eurystomus azureus*, Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Todirhamphus diops*, Sombre Kingfisher *T. funebris*, Beach Kingfisher *T. saurophaga*, Moluccan Cuckoo *Cacomantis heinrichi*, Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*, Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus*, White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba*, Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis*, Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis*, Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus*, Moluccan Hawk-Owl *Ninox squamipila*, Long-whiskered Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons*, Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii*, Blue-capped Fruit-Dove *P. monacha*, Grey-headed Fruit-Dove *P. hyogastra*, Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula basilica*, White-spectacled Imperial Pigeon *D. perspicillata*, Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*, Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*, Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*, Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*, Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima*, White-streaked Friarbird *Melitograis gilolensis*, Dusky Friarbird *Philemon fuscicapillus*, Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus*, Paradise-crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*, Standard-wing *Semioptera wallacii*, Dusky-brown Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus*, Moluccan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina atriceps*, Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina parvula*, Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea*, Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus affinis*, White-naped Monarch *Monarcha pileatus*, Creamy-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps*, Flame-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrothorax*	*Ailurops ursinus* It may be possible to charter a boat to Sidangoli to arrive the same day.
24	**Ternate** • boat to **Sidangoli** early am • bus to **Kali Batu Putih**		
25	**Kali Batu Putih**		Accommodation at Kali Batu Putih. Food provided
26	**Kali Batu Putih**		
27	**Kali Batu Putih**		
28	**Kali Batu Putih** • bus to **Sidangoli** • boat to **Ternate**		Boat departs at 11h00 to Ternate
29	**Ternate** • to **Manado**		
	or **Ambon**		

The Lesser Sundas

Day		Birds	Notes
1	**Denpasar** • fly to **Waingapu (SUMBA)** • am visit mudflats and mangroves • travel to **Yambu** for 17h00.	Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*, Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa*, Sumba Buttonquail *T. everetti*, Barred Dove *Geopelia maugeus*, Five-colored Munia *Lonchura quinticolor*.	Camping
2	am **Waingapu** • bus to **Lewapaku** (51 km forest)	Green Junglefowl *Gallus varius*, Sumba Hornbill *Aceros everetti*, Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Sumba Boobook *Ninox rudolphi*, scops-owl sp. *Otus* sp., Sumba Green-Pigeon *Treron teysmannii*, Red-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus dohertyi*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Sumba Myzomela *Myzomela dammermani*, Sumba Cicadabird *Coracina dohertyi*, Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi*, Russet-backed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias oscillans*, Sumba Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa segregata*, Sumba Flycatcher *Ficedula harterti*, Apricot-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia buettikoferi*.	Camping
3	**Lewapaku** area km 51 forest, side road at km 48		pm best for Sumba Green-Pigeon and Red-naped Fruit-Dove
4	**Lewapaku** area am • pm travel to **Waikabubak**		
5	**Wakiabubak** • fly to **Bima (SUMBAWA)** • bus to **Sape** • pm **Sape** mudflats and fishponds	Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo coerulescens*, several species of waders.	
6	**Sape** • boat to **KOMODO** arrive 14h00	Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda*, Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*, Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*, Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*.	Good accommodation at National Park HQ. Komodo Dragons *Varanus komodoensis* feeding days Wednesday and Sunday.
7	**Komodo** • boat to **Labuhan Bajo (FLORES)** arrive 19h00		
8	Travel to **Ruteng** (bus) • pm **Pocoranaka**	Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula lacernulata*, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater *Lichmera lombokia*, Bare-throated Whistler *Pachycephala nudigula*, Sumba Cicadabird *Coracina dohertyi*, Flores Minivet *Pericrocotus lansbergei*, Brown-capped Fantail *Rhipidura diluta*, Russet-backed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias oscillans*, Yellow-browed White-eye *Lophozosterops superciliaris*, Crested White-eye *Lophozosterops dohertyi*, Russet-capped Tesia *Tesia everetti*, Timor Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes*, Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*, Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *D. sanguinolentum*, Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch *Erythrura hyperythra*, Five-colored Munia *Lonchura quinticolor*.	Accommoation in Ruteng
9	**Golo Lusang** am • **Pocoranaka** pm		
10	**Golo Lusang** am • **Pocoranaka** pm		
11	**Golo Lusang** am • bus to **Kisol** arrive evening		Stay at Catholic Seminary

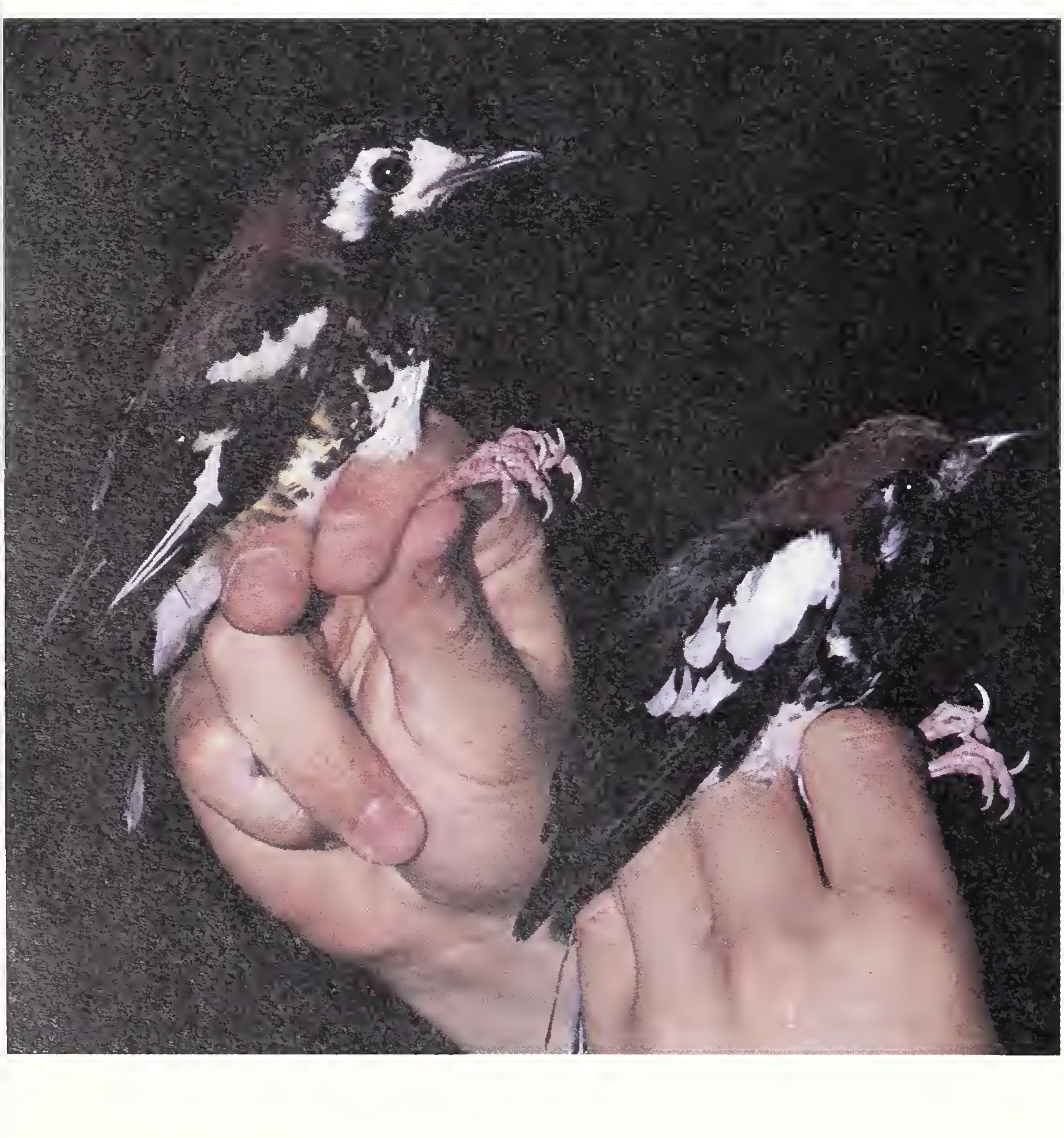


(1) Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis* is characteristic of montane and foothill forests on several Indonesian islands (Photo: Frank Lambert)



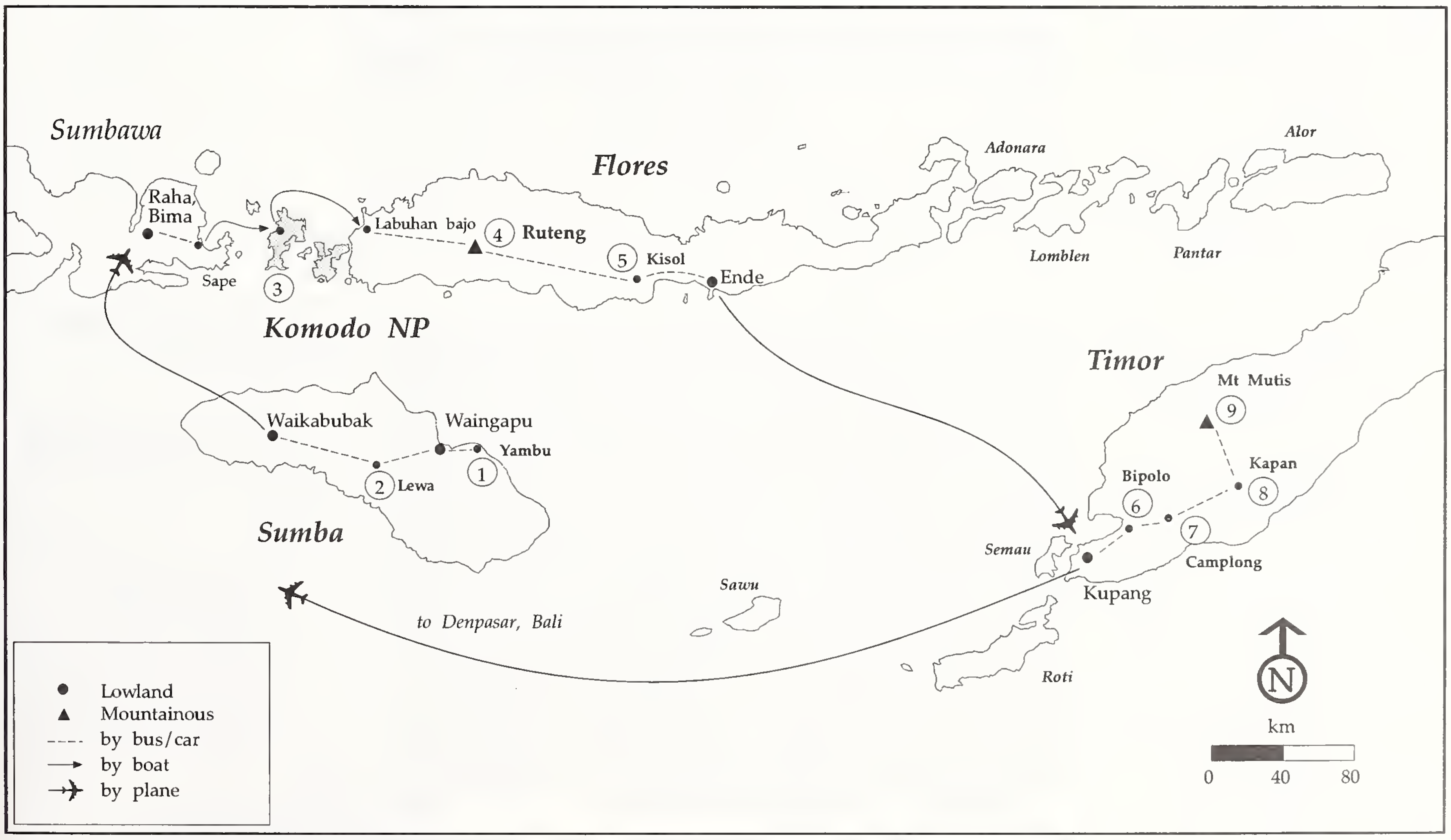
(2) The Flores Monarch *Monarcha sacerdotum* was described to science as recently as 1977 and had not been seen following the initial discovery. In August 1993 a team of British and Indonesian ornithologists found the species at one site in primary moist forest in west Flores, but where it was uncommon (Photo: Stuart Butchart).

(3) *Zoothera* thrushes are amongst the most popular of genera for birdwatchers visiting Asia, and the two species shown here are as spectacular as any. The Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi* (left) is endemic to the Lesser Sundas. The Chestnut-capped Thrush *Zoothera interpres* (right) is more widespread occurring in peninsular Thailand and Malaysia and on many islands in the Malay Archipelago (Photo: Charles Davies).



(4) The Black-backed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus cinctu* is endemic to the Lesser Sundas (Photo: Gu Dutson).

Day	Birds	Notes
12 **Gunung Pacendeki** 13 **Gunung Pacendeki**	White-rumped Kingfisher *Caridonax fulgidus*, Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*, Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus*, Wallace's Scops-Owl *O. silvicola*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Flores Crow *Corvus florensis*, Chestnut-capped Thrush *Zoothera interpres*, Crested White-eye *Lophozosterops dohertyi*, Thick-billed White-eye *Heleia crassirostris*, Flame-breasted Sunbird *Nectarinia solaris*.	
14 **Nangarawa** (with Seminary 4WD and driver) am • pm **Gunung Pacendeki** 15 **Nangarawa** am, or **Bunung Pacendeki** • late morning travel • bus to **Ende** (6 hr)	Green Junglefowl *Gallus varius*, Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*, Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos*, Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*, Flores Green-Pigeon *Treron floris*, Flores Crow *Corvus florensis*, Yellow-spectacled White-eye *Zosterops wallacei*, Golden-rumped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum annae*.	
16 **Ende** • fly to **Kupang** (**TIMOR**) • pm travel to **Bipolo** 17 **Bipolo** 18 **Bipolo** 19 **Bipolo** am • bus to **Camplong** • pm bird **Camplong**	Iris Lorikeet *Psitteuteles iris*, Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*, Olive-shouldered Parrot *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*, Morepork *Ninox novaeseelandiae*, Dusky Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia magna*, Timor Green-Pigeon *Treron psittacea*, Black-backed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus cinctus*, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rosacea*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Red-rumped Myzomela *Myzomela vulnerata*, Streaky-breasted Honeyeater *Meliphaga reticulata*, Plain Friarbird *Philemon inornatus*, Plain Gerygone *Gerygone inornata*, Fawn-breasted Whistler *Pachycephala orpheus*, Olive-brown Oriole *Oriolus melanotis*, Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina personata*, Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus densus*, Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii*, Timor Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hyacinthinus*, White-bellied Bushchat *Saxicola gutturalis*, Tricolored Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor*, Timor Sparrow *Padda fuscata*.	Stay with Kepala Desa (village head) in village or camp. Take food sufficient for your stay.
20 **Camplong** 21 **Camplong** 22 **Camplong** am • pm bus to **Kapan** (forest area 7 km from town)	Cinnamon-backed Kingfisher *Todirhamphus australasia*, Slaty Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena modesta*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Red-rumped Myzomela *Myzomela vulnerata*, Plain Friarbird *Philemon inornatus*, Olive-brown Oriole *Oriolus melanotis*, Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii*, Black-banded Flycatcher *Ficedula timorensis*, White-bellied Bushchat *Saxicola gutturalis*, Spot-breasted White-eye *Heleia muelleri*, Timor Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes*, Timor	Accommodation at Catholic Wisma de Hat Honis on outskirts of town. Camp in forest.

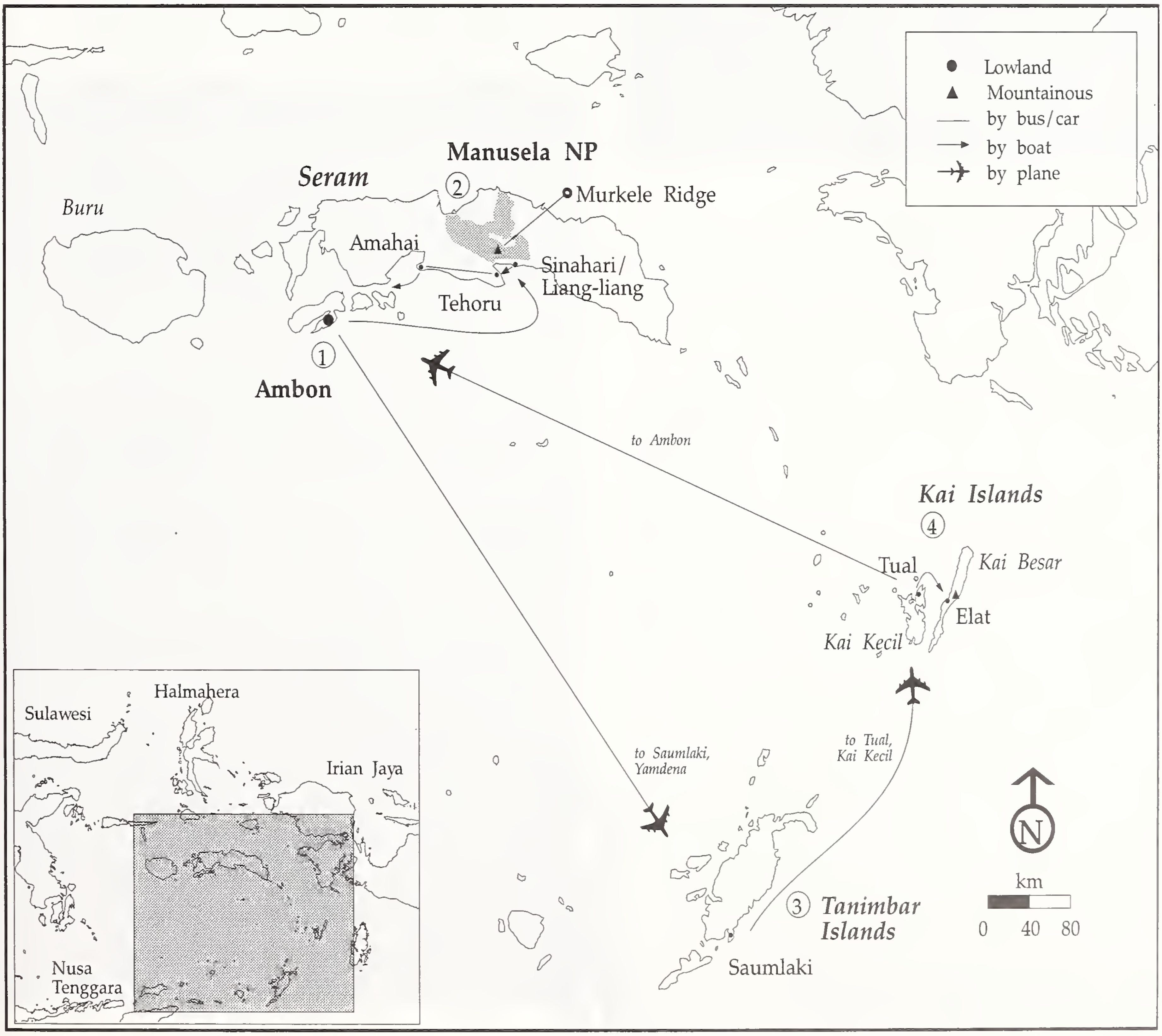


Day	Birds	Notes
	Stubtail *Urosphena subulata*, Buff-banded Grassbird *Buettikoferella bivittata*, Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*, Red-chested Flowerpecker *D. maugei.*	
23 **Kapan** 24 **Kapan** am • bus to **Kapan** town • arrange 4WD to **Mount Mutis**	Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Dusky Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia magna*, Red-rumped Myzomela *Myzomela vulnerata*, Yellow-eared Honeyeater *Lichmera flavicans*, Plain Friarbird *Philemon inornatus*, Olive-brown Oriole *Oriolus melanotis*, Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii*, Black-banded Flycatcher *Ficedula timorensis*, Spot-breasted White-eye *Heleia muelleri*, Timor Stubtail *Urosphena subulata*, Red-chested Flowerpecker *Dicaeum maugei*, Tricolored Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor*.	Camp on plateau below
25 **Mount Mutis** 26 **Mount Mutis**	Olive-headed Lorikeet *Trichoglossus euteles*, Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*, Slaty Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena modesta*, Black-backed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus cinctus*, Timor Imperial Pigeon *Ducula cineracea*, Yellow-eared Honeyeater *Lichmera flavicans*, Plain Gerygone *Gerygone inornata*, Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi*, Sunda Thrush *Z. andromedae*, Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcania*, Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi*, Timor Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes*.	summit.
27 **Mount Mutis** am • **Kapan** • pm bus to **Kupang** mudflats and mangroves 28 **Kupang** • fly to **Denpasar**	Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*, Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*, Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*.	

South Moluccas (Seram, Tanimbar and Kai)

Day	Birds	Notes
1 **Jakarta** to **Denpasar** • fly via **Ujung Pandang** • fly to **Ambon** • pm bird area near Airport 2 **Ambon** obtaining *Surat Jalan* for Seram, Tanimbar, Kai • buy air tickets • bird area near **Haya** • late pm bus to **Tehomi**.	Lazuli Kingfisher *Todirhamphus lazuli*, Red Lory *Eos bornea*, Ambon Yellow White-eye *Zosterops kuehni*, Ashy Flowerpecker *Dicaeum vulneratum*.	
3 Overnight boat to **SERAM** to **Moso** via **Tehoru** • at **Moso** arrange porters, food • walk to **Sinahari** village. 4 am around **Sinahari** • **Liang-liang**, bird above there. 5/6 Walk to **Murkele Ridge** birding en route and back to **Liang-liang**. 7 Walk down to **Moso** • pm boat to **Tehoru** 8 Overnight boat to **Ambon** • or bus to **Amahai** and speedboat to **Ambon**.	Lazuli Kingfisher *Todirhamphus lazuli*, Red Lory *Eos bornea*, Purple-naped Lory *Lorius domicella*, Salmon-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis*, Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*, Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos*, Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*, Moluccan Swiftlet *Collocalia infuscata*, Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*, Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus viridis*, White-spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*, Long-tailed Mountain-Pigeon *Gymnophaps mada*, Wakolo Myzomela *Myzomela wakoloensis*, Seram Honeyeater *Lichmera monticola*, Grey-necked Friarbird *Philemon subcorniculatus*, Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota*, Grey-collared Oriole *Oriolus forsteni*, Moluccan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina atriceps*, Streaky-breasted Fantail *Rhipidura dedemi*, Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula buruensis*, Long-crested Myna *Basilornis corythaix*, Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus affinis*, Bicolored White-eye *Tephrozosterops stalkeri*, Grey-hooded White-eye *Lophozosterops pinaiae*, Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus*, Gray's Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*.	See **Birdwatching Areas** in *OBC Bulletin* 18 Camping Sinahari and Liang-liang are located around Manusela N.P. and Murkele Ridge is located inside it. For those with more time trek on to Manusela and then Mount Kobipote where you might see Blue-eared Lory *Eos semilarvata*, Drab Myzomela *Myzomela blasii* and Moluccan Thrush *Zoothera dumasi*, but it would take an additional 5-6 days.
9 **Ambon** fly **Saumlaki (TANIMBAR)** pm bird 20 km N of Saumlaki 10 Bird 20 km N of **Saumlaki**	Cinnamon-backed Kingfisher *Todirhamphus australasia*, Pied Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx crassirostris*, Blue-streaked Lory *Eos reticulata*, Tanimbar Cockatoo *Cacatua goffini*, Lesser Masked-Owl *Tyto sororcula*, Moluccan Hawk-Owl *Ninox squamipila*, Wallace's Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus wallacii*, Blue-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula concinna*, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *D. rosacea*, Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*, Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*, Banda Myzomela *Myzomela*	Stay at hotels in Saumlaki

Day	Birds	Notes
10 Bird 20 km N of **Saumlaki** 11 Bird 35 km N of **Saumlaki**	*boiei*, White-tufted Honeyeater *Lichmera squamata*, Black-faced Friarbird *Philemon moluccensis*, Rufous-sided Gerygone *Gerygone dorsalis*, Golden-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca hemixantha*, Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota*, Wallacean Whistler *P. arctitorquis*, Black-eared Oriole *Oriolus bouroensis*, White-browed Triller *Lalage moesta*, Cinnamon-tailed Fantail *Rhipidura fuscorufa*, Long-tailed Fantail *R. opistherythra*, Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*, Loetoe Monarch *M. castus*, Black-bibbed Monarch *M. mundus*, Slaty-backed Thrush *Zoothera schistacea*, Fawn-breasted Thrush *Z. machiki*, Tanimbar Starling *Aplonis crassa*, Tanimbar Bush-Warbler *Cettia carolinae*, Tricolored Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor*.	
12 Bird 20 km N of **Saumlaki** 13 am fly to **Tuol** (**KAI**) pm bird **Taman Angrekk**	Kai Coucal *Centropus spilopterus*, Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*, Kai Cicadabird *Coracina dispar*, Golden-bellied White-eye *Zosterops uropygialis*.	Stay at Hotel Mira
14 Bird **Taman Angrekk** 15 am boat to **Kai Besar** (**Tual-Elat**) • pm bird forest ridge above **Voko** 16 am bird forest ridge above **Voko** • late am to **Elat** pm return to **Tual** 17 Bird **Taman Angrekk**	Kai Coucal *Centropus spilopterus*, White-tailed Monarch *Monarcha leucurus*, Pearl-bellied White-eye *Zosterops grayi*.	Camp at ridge or stay with local people (if possible)



18 Fly **Tual** to **Ambon**

This itinerary can be extended by any of the following options:

A. Fly Ambon to Jakarta/Denpasar. Follow Java and Bali itinerary.

B. Fly Ambon to Ternate. Follow Halmahera itinerary.

C. Fly or boat to Buru to explore lowland to montane habitats.The species listed below are restricted-range species recorded from Buru. Key area to explore is the mountains in the south-east. Use local guides.

Moluccan Scrubfowl *Megapodius wallacei*, Red Lory *Eos bornea*, Blue-fronted Lorikeet *Charmosyna toxopei*, Buru Racquet-tail *Prioniturus mada*, Black-lored Parrot *Tanygnathus gramineus*, Lesser Masked-Owl *Tyto sororcula*, Moluccan Hawk-Owl *Ninox squamipila*, White-spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*, Long-tailed Mountain-Pigeon *Gymnophaps mada*, Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythrauchen*, Drab Myzomela *Myzomela blasii*, Wakolo Myzomela *M. wakoloensis*, Buru Honeyeater *Lichmera deningeri*, Black-faced Friarbird *Philemon moluccensis*, Black-eared Oriole *Oriolus bouroensis*, Buru Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina fortis*, Pale Cicadabird *C. ceramensis*, Tawny-backed Fantail *Rhipidura superflua*, White-naped Monarch *Monarcha pileatus*, Black-tipped Monarch *M. loricatus*, Dark-grey Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*, Moluccan Thrush *Zoothera dumasi*, Streaky-breasted Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias addita*, Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula buruensis*, Buru Yellow White-eye *Zosterops buruensis*, Rufous-throated White-eye *Madanga ruficollis*, Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus*, Flame-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrothorax*,

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We recommend that details of any bird observations made in Indonesia are sent to the **Indonesian Ornithological Society** at *PO Box 4087, Jakarta, 12040, Indonesia.*

Credits

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Colour separations...............**Bob Hibbert**
Cover line drawing..............Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* by **Nigel Bean.**

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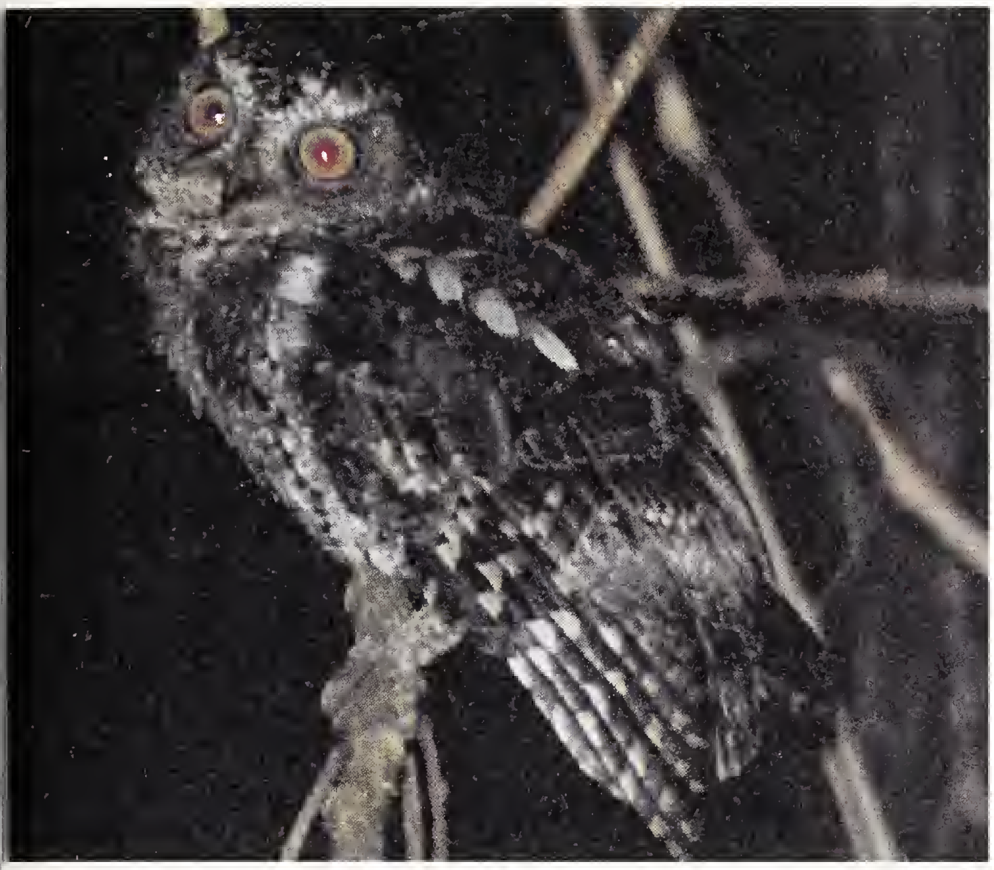

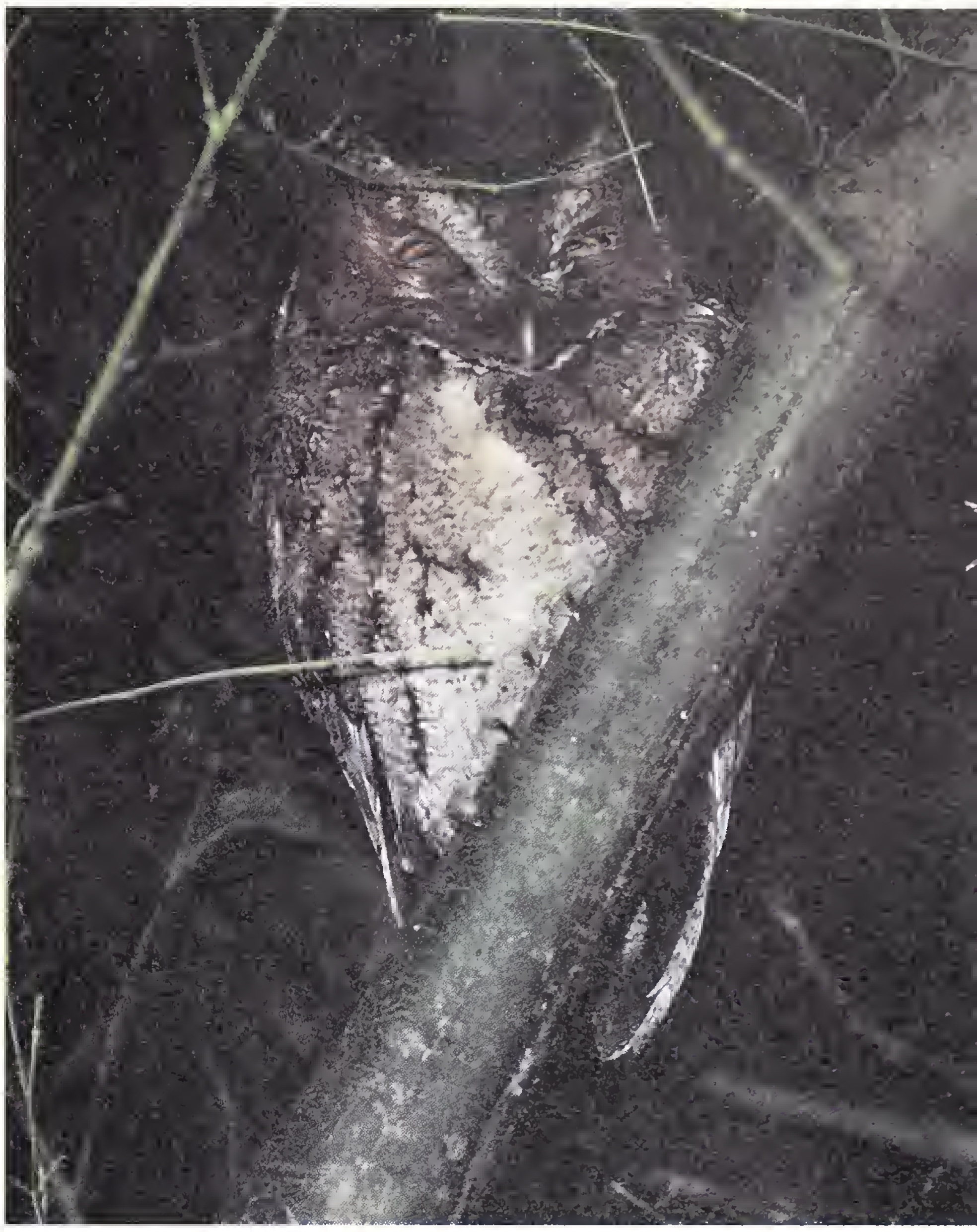

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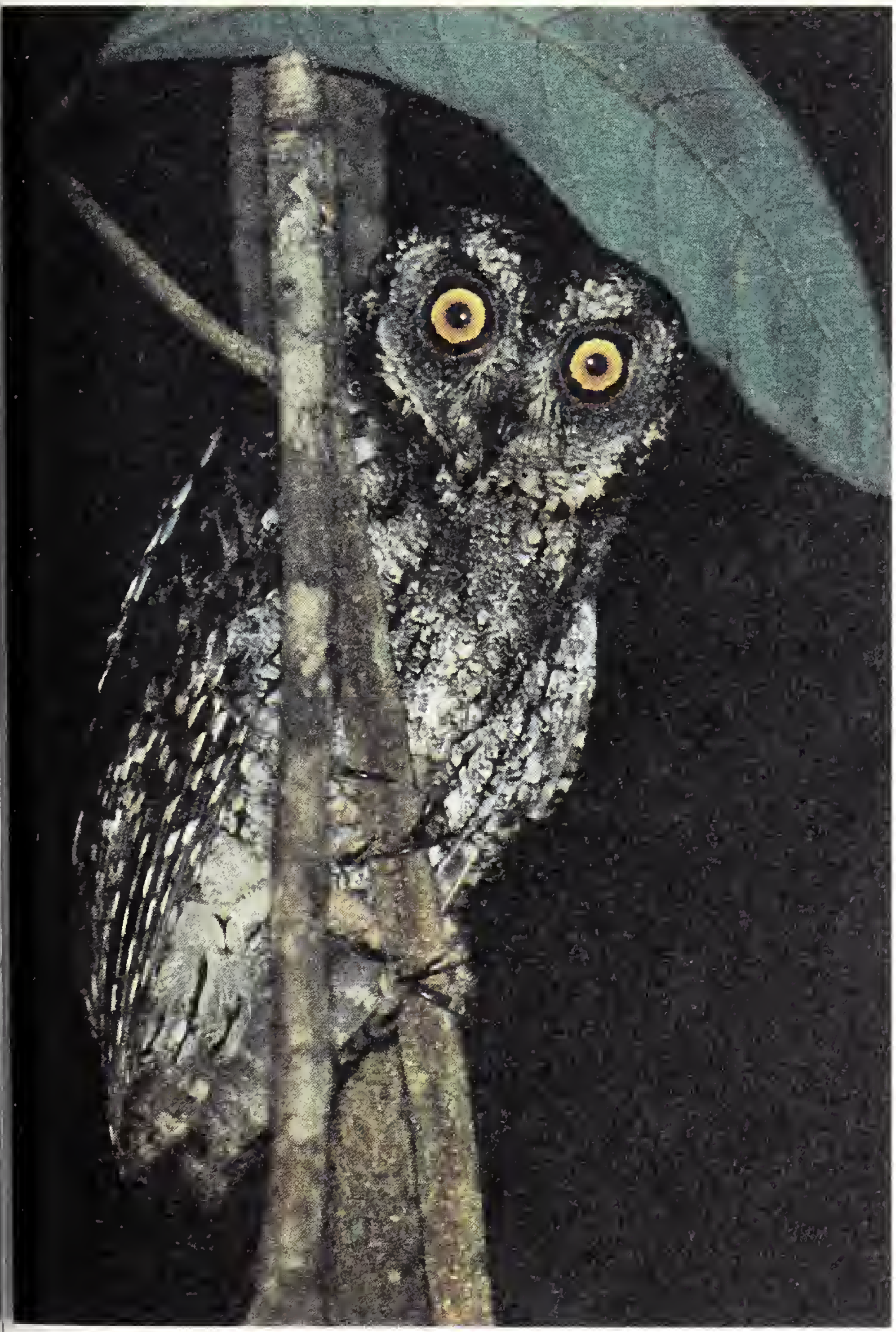


The taxononomy of the Indonesian scops-owls is poorly documented and the relationships of many of the taxa unknown. The plumage patterns of scops-owls are so alike and vary within populations that a better way of defining the group is to use their voices - the same way that scops-owls themselves recognise each other. Encouragingly, more data on calls has been collected in recent years as an increasing number of amateur birdwatchers are travelling to Indonesia, often carrying with them into the field sound recording equipment.

(1) Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Otus manadensis*, taken at Dumoga Bone National Park, Sulawesi (Photo: Frank Lambert). **(2)** The Rajah Scops-Owl *Otus brookii* occurs on Sumatra, Borneo and Java. Up until last year the species was known on Java only from the eastern mountain range, but last year it was found in the Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park in West Java, where this photo was taken. (Photo: Nick Preston). **(3)** Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus*. The taxonomy of this species is very complicated with populations ranging throughout many of the Moluccan islands and New Guinea and perhaps across the Indian Ocean - some taxonomists consider the Seychelles Scops-Owl *Otus insularis* to be part of this species complex (Photo: Frank Lambert).

Special review

A field guide to the birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali *by J. MacKinnon and K. Phillipps, Oxford University Press, 1993. 491 + xvi pp, £25 (sb), £50 (hb).*

Until recently it has been almost impossible for the visitor to Java and Sumatra to identify all of the islands' resident birds, and in particular the endemics. All that was available was the impractical and tiresome combination of Hoogerwerf's[5,6] illustrated books (in Dutch) on Buitenzorg and Tjibodas (= Cibodas) birds, Delacour's[3] *Birds of Malaysia* (which is only illustrated with some line drawings), King *et al.*[3] *Field guide to the birds of South-East Asia* (with van Strien's[12] unillustrated complementary booklet on Sumatran birds), Smythies'[11] *Birds of Borneo*, and visits to the Bogor zoological museum's bird skin collection (almost impossible nowadays without written LIPI approval). The appearance of MacKinnon's *Birds of Java and Bali*[9] in 1988 offered only a partial solution due to its rather poor and confusing plates and its restricted coverage.

It seems that MacKinnon was determined to make amends by producing this brand new guide to the birds of the Greater Sundas, correcting the shortcomings of his earlier book. In particular, the illustrations, this time skilfully prepared by Karen Phillipps, are an enormous improvement. Moreover, this new book includes Borneo and Sumatra and has been completed in a very short time. It would therefore seem unfair to criticise such a major achievement, but users of this book will be very much helped by some caveats and any critical comment should be regarded as being constructive.

The book is roughly divided into five sections: background information, the 88 full colour plates, descriptions of the families and 820 species accounts, seven appendices, and a quite extensive bibliography.

Background information: the 44 pages include the 'Introduction' and sections on '(Bio)geography', 'Conservation', 'Field Techniques for Bird Watching' and 'When and Where to see Birds', and are very well worth reading. Some inaccuracies were found under 'Conservation', where it is said (page 22) that the Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* is extinct (should be Javanese Lapwing *Vanellus macropterus*), and information on the distribution of some Javan birds (pages 20-22) is incorrectly referenced, e.g. van Balen[1] describes the observations of a Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch *Erythrura hyperythra* at the nest and nothing else.

Plates: the quality of the plates is generally high, and enhanced by the many different races shown. However, one wonders why the distinct subspecies of the Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus* (species number 505), Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris* (604) and Sunda Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus glaucinus* (637) have not been simply split into species, as has been done by MacKinnon for less widely accepted splits such as the Chestnut *Lonchura ferruginosa* and Black-headed Munias *L. malacca* (814-815) and the Ashy *Orthotomus ruficeps* and Olive-backed Tailorbirds *O. sepium* (665-666), which are far more difficult to tell apart in the field than the plate suggests.

In some cases the plumage details given are not very accurate. For example, the two tit-babblers (Plate 68) occurring on Java are impossible to tell apart in the field using MacKinnon's instructions, the Sunda Whistling-Thrush (Plate 71) is never as deep blue as illustrated, Javan Tesia *Tesia superciliaris* (Plate 74; once called Javan Ground-Warbler on p 43) is much less contrastingly coloured and male Crimson Sunbirds *Aethopyga siparaja* (Plate 83) have purple tails (see p 26-28 of this bulletin).

The plates showing the flight patterns of birds of prey are very useful. However, it seems that the Javan Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus bartelsi* (Plate 11) always causes problems, as the juvenile plumage is rufous, never white, an error that probably originates from Kuroda's confusion of the (white) juvenile Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* with Javan Hawk-Eagle. It is not clear why two almost identical plumages of the Black-capped Kingfisher

Halcyon pileata are shown on Plate 45, with no reference whatsoever in the description on p 217 (the scaly phase Black-capped, Collared *Todirhamphus chloris* and Sacred *T. sanctus* Kingfishers are juveniles according to Fry[4] *et al.*, whereas the juvenile Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris* (which may be confused with White-throated Kingfisher *H. smyrnensis*) is not shown on the same plate.

The 'jizz' of some birds is lacking from the plates, e.g., the rather drab Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola* (Plate 80) would have been made more recognizable if the character of this species had been captured. The orange pectoral tufts on Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris* as shown on plate 84 are not diagnostic of this species, as Little Spiderhunter *A. longirostra* and some other species of the genus show chrome or orange-yellow tufts. There are also problems with the eye colours of the bulbuls: Black-crested (Plate 58) have white eyes, and more diagnostically, Cream-vented *Pycnonotus simplex* (Plate 59) have reddish, never white, eyes in Java.

The scale of the illustrations of birds is generally right, but there are errors. On plate 15 the sizes of the Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis* and both button-quails are confused, and on plate 34 the Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana* should be as large as the Little *M. ruficeps* (according to the measurements given in the descriptions it is actually slightly larger than Little *M. ruficeps*, but smaller than Barred *M. unchall*). On plate 68 the Spotted Crocias *Crocias albonotatus* looks as small as the yuhinas, but is actually 6-7 cm larger. If in doubt, one should always consult the main text where (more or less) accurate measurements are given.

The distribution codes on the plates (S/B/J) are not always correct, and a few errors deserve mention: the Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* (Plate 6) should also be listed for Borneo and Sumatra, the Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* (Plate 9) for Java and the Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove (Plate 34) also occurs on Borneo and Sumatra. The Javan Sunbird *Aethopyga mystacalis* (Plate 83) is mistakenly listed for Sumatra and Borneo (rather than Java), Scarlet (Temminck's) Sunbird *A. temminckii* for Java (rather than Sumatra and Borneo) and Black-headed Munia (Plate 87) does not occur on Java. Users should therefore always check the text as well as the plate captions before submitting new island records.

Species accounts: these start with a section on the physical description of the species concerned. These are in general accurate, although in some cases distinct local races are not well described. It is not clear which race of the Grey-cheeked Tit-Babbler *Macronous flavicollis* (597) has the grey or pale rufous crown. Body sizes are sometimes confused: e.g. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* is given as 30 cm and Slender-billed Crow *C. enca* as 45 cm, but should in fact be smaller than the former. Confusion is caused by the statement that the Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea* (page 278) is 'distinguished from the other plain brown bulbuls by white or grey eyes', which ignores the white-eyed individuals of Cream-vented Bulbul. The Bornean race of the Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria* (698) is said to have a more prominent eyebrow, but its eyebrow is actually less prominent.

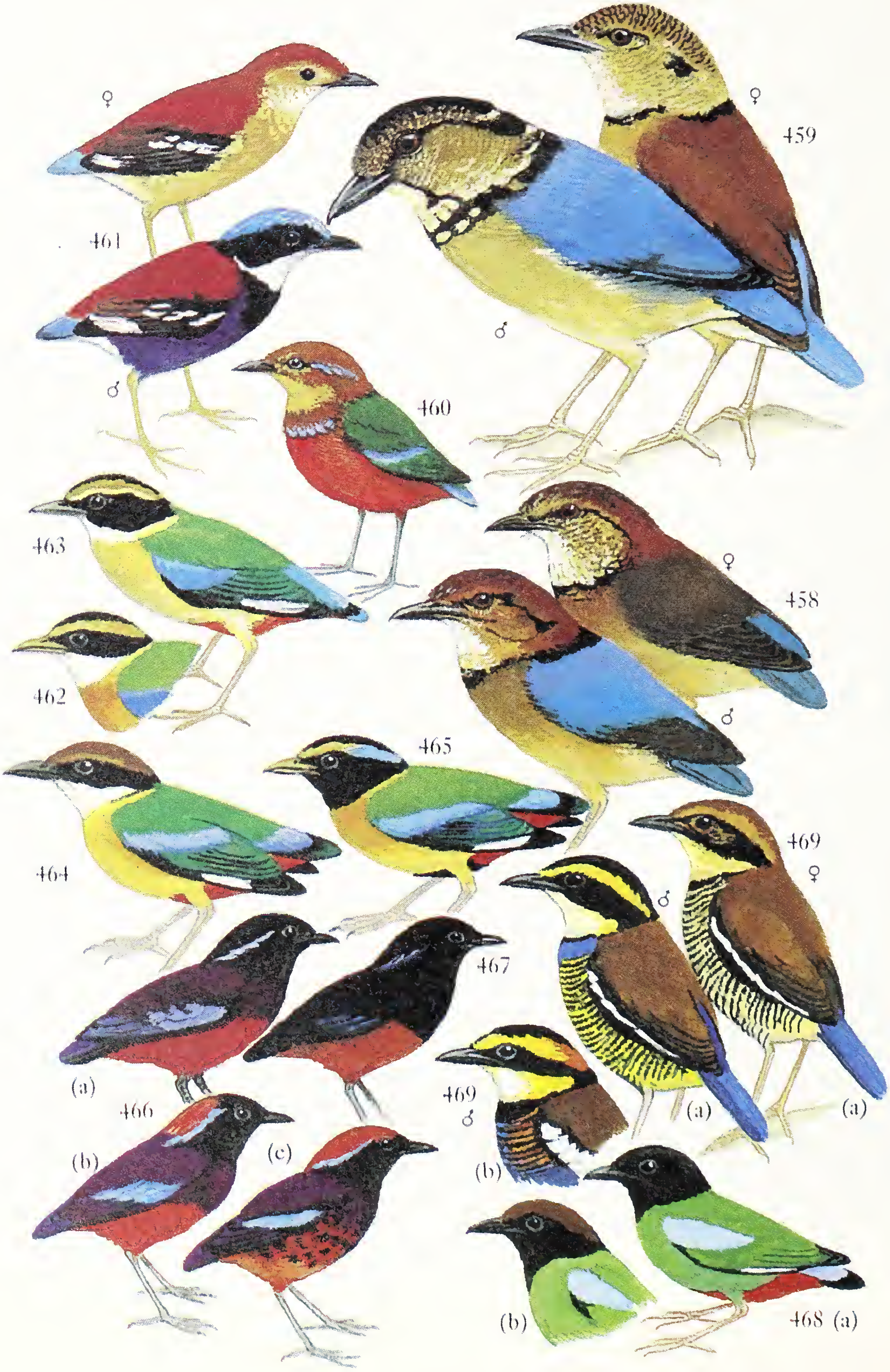
More information could have been given on the vocalisations for some species, as much new information on South-East Asian bird calls is already available. Lekagul and Round's[8] *Birds of Thailand*, would have been an excellent source for a number of species. For example, the calls of the Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* (page 389) are very distinct from other flowerpeckers, apart perhaps from Brown-backed Flowerpecker *D. everetti*. Other flowerpeckers have far more distinctive calls than the 'zit, zit' or 'chip, chip' calls described here. It appears that Hoogerwerf's annotations, which are rather arbitrary and not always very diagnostic, have been used too often. The last section describes the species' habits; some information on breeding seasons and nesting would have been welcome here.

Appendices: Much additional information is given in the appendices. Appendix 1 documents the occurrence of endemic and threatened species in 20 major reserves throughout the region. Scientific names are given, which is an improvement on similar lists in MacKinnon's earlier Java and Bali guide, where the species were referred to by numbers. It is a pity, however, that a number of recently published reports (e.g., those in the *OBC Bull.*) have apparently not been consulted, and that no sources are mentioned. Appendix 2 lists endangered and threatened species by island. The list for Java is rather out-of-date, as recent observa-

Plate 53 from *A field guide to the birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*

458 Schneider's Pitta *Pitta schneideri*
459 Giant Pitta *P. caerulea*
460 Blue-banded Pitta *P. arcuata*
461 Blue-headed Pitta *P. baudii*
462 Blue-winged Pitta *P. moluccensis*
463 Fairy Pitta *P. nympha*
464 Mangrove Pitta *P. megarhyncha*
465 Elegant Pitta *P. elegans*
  P. e. concinna shown
466 Garnet Pitta *P. granatina*
  (a) *P. g. ussheri* (Sabah)
  (b) *P. g. granatina* (Sarawak)
  (c) *P. g. coccinea* (E Sumatra)
467 Black-crowned Pitta *P. venusta*
468 Hooded Pitta *P. sordida*
469 Banded Pitta *P. guajana*
  (a) *P. g. guajana* (E Java and Bali)
  (b) *P. g. ripleyi* (Sumatra)

The plate has been reproduced with the permission of Oxford University Press.



tions of some species have been missed (e.g. Large Green-Pigeon *Treron capellei*, Orange-breasted Green-Pigeon *Treron bicincta*, Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*, etc.), which are thus less rare than the list suggests. The Borneo list, surprisingly, lists only 13 species, of which ten are common and widespread elsewhere (notably the Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, Black-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia maxima*, etc.). It does not, however, mention globally threatened species listed in Collar and Andrew[2], such as the *Lophura* pheasants and the Bornean Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*.

The nomenclature of Sibley and Monroe[10] is followed, with the more traditional family and species sequence that is found in most contemporary guides. Very unfamiliar names such as *Alophoixus* are included (however, still referred to by the old name *Criniger* on p. 275, bottom line), although it appears from Appendix 2 that the transition to the new names is incomplete, e.g. *Podiceps* for*Tachybaptus*,*Plegadis papillosa* for *Pseudibis davisoni*, *Chrysococcyx malayanus* for *C. minutillus*, *Halcyon capensis* for *Pelargopsis capensis*. Fortunately, the index will help (in some cases) those without a detailed historical knowledge of local nomenclature. Appendix 3 lists the land birds for 21 island groups. This is useful information, but again no source references are given, nor the location of the different islands or island groups, which apparently comprise a rather mixed collection of offshore and inshore, and volcanic / oceanic islands. Appendix 4 lists Bornean montane birds by mountain group. Again no references are given, and not all the mountain groups can be found on the map on page 7. A few montane species are missing from this Appendix, notably the Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* and Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*, whereas the White-necked Babbler *S. leucotis* and some other species listed can hardly be considered montane.

The sonograms in Appendix 6 are a good idea and useful, provided that they are accurate, diagnostic and consistent with what is written in the main text. Unfortunately this is not always the case and the barbet calls (which are quite communicable even in written text) are particularly confusing and sometimes even clearly wrong. In the pigeons and doves, the Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* is given a call in a descending scale, and in the cuckoos, the calls of Plaintive *Cacomantis merulinus* and Banded Bay *C. sonneratii* are partially confused, and the call of Rusty-breasted *C. sepulcralis* completely confused. Users of the book should be very careful with the interpretation of the sonograms, as dependence on them could lead to misidentification.

Appendix 7 gives the names and addresses (in some cases obsolete, e.g., WWF's address in Jakarta) of a number of organisations concerned with the study and conservation of birds in the region.

To summarise, MacKinnon's work is a must *sine qua non* for every visitor interested in the region's wildlife. However, it is hoped that in future editions the authors will use more up-to-date material, and cooperate more closely with resident ornithologists. A translation into the Indonesian language is currently being prepared by LIPI and the BirdLife International Indonesia Programme.

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Birding in Tanimbar and Kai

In this article Alan Lewis describes the exciting potential of the isolated oceanic islands of Tanimbar and Kai in Indonesia

The oceanic island groups of Tanimbar and Kai lie in the southern Moluccan Sea between Timor and the New Guinea mainland (see map on page xv). They are distinct zoogeographically from the geologically more recent Aru islands lying on the Papuan shelf, which have a predominantly New Guinea avifauna.

Tanimbar and Kai have received surprisingly little recent ornithological attention given the number of endemic birds on the islands. Possibly the most striking of these are the two endemic *Zoothera* thrushes, namely Fawn-breasted *Z. machiki* and Slaty-backed *Z. schistacea*.

The island groups lie within the Banda Sea islands Endemic Bird Area. A total of 46 restricted-range bird species occur, of which 23 are endemic to this EBA. Eight species are endemic to the Tanimbar group and four to the Kai group, including Pearl-bellied White-eye *Zosterops grayi*, which is restricted to Kai Besar, and Golden-bellied White-eye *Zosterops uropygialis*, which is endemic to Kai Kecil.

This short article is based on a visit that Neil Bostock and I made to the islands in November 1992.

TANIMBAR

Historically, most bird specimens were collected from the low-lying Larat, the most northerly island of the archipelago, which is separated from the main island of Yamdena by a narrow channel. Thus, it seems likely that both islands have a similar avifauna. Larat has been visited by five collecting expeditions since 1924. Rozendaal[2] visited several areas in southern Yamdena in 1985 and his most important observations are included in Collar and Andrew[1].

Getting there. Indonesia's domestic airline Merpati operates a twice weekly service from Ambon to Saumlaki on Yamdena. These are 'pioneer' flights rather than scheduled flights, which means the airline is not obliged to operate the flight, but the service typically does a return run on Tuesdays and Fridays. Some flights go via Tual (Kai) on both legs of the journey. A one way flight from Ambon-Saumlaki costs RP164,000 (c.£55). Return flights cannot be booked or paid for in Ambon. The return to Ambon should be booked at the Merpati agent in the Harapan Indah Hotel.

Accommodation. Saumlaki is a convenient base for exploring southern Yamdena. There are few hotels, the Harapan Indah and the Pantai Indah are adequate and cost about RP15,000 per person per night (c.£5). The price includes three simple meals daily.

Getting around. There is only one road, which runs north from Saumlaki along the east side of Yamdena and this provides easy access to forested areas. A good option is to hire a vehicle and driver for the day, which costs between RP50-100,000 (c.£15-33), depending on the distance covered. Public transport is limited to a few buses a day, which are usually full on the return journey, and occasional logging trucks.

Birding. A good place to find the island's endemics is in roadside forest about 20 km north of Saumlaki. There are as yet no km marker posts but the area is easily recognised by a large garden compound on the east side of the road, owned by the same people who run the Harapan Indah hotel.

Walking north along the road from this point the Tanimbar Corella *Cacatua goffini* is common and even considered a pest by local people as it raids maize fields (see Yusup Chayadin's article on page 55-56). Even more common is the attractive Blue-streaked Lory *Eos reticulata*, which can be seen flying over the road.

Pigeons are conspicuous, with the Blue-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula concinna* being particularly abundant. Its loud growling call is one of the most characteristic sounds of Yamdena's forests. Less obtrusive, but just as common, is the Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus regina* (represented on Tanimbar by the distinctive grey-headed subspecies *xanthogaster*). These and the spectacular Wallace's Fruit-Dove *P. wallacii* favour fruiting trees. The Dusky Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia magna* is much more common here than in the degraded forest patches of Timor, which is an encouraging sign.

The tiny Pied Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx crassirostris* was best located by its long trilling call, but can be difficult to observe as it tends to stay in the tree tops. Sometimes, however, it can be spotted feeding on small caterpillars in small shrubs. The Fawn-breasted Thrush *Zoothera machiki* is common and regularly ventures onto the road to feed; otherwise they skulk in dense scrub and they appear to favour recently burnt areas. This is the most distinctive member of the *Zoothera dauma* superspecies complex which has been separated into a number of allospecies by Sibley and Monroe[3].

About 0.5 km north of the garden compound is an old logging track leading westwards from the main road. By walking quietly along this track it is possible to view the shy Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*. The *tenimberensis* subspecies is very different in appearance to *M. reinwardt* in Australia and New Guinea, and may be a different species.

In the forest interior flocks of several species of monarchs can be seen occasionally, the commonest members being Loetoe Monarch *Monarcha castus*, Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis* and the endemic Black-bibbed Monarch *Monarcha mundus*. The last species behaves like a nuthatch *Sitta*, gleaning from the underside of branches and leaves with its upturned dagger-like bill. The resemblance is heightened by its blue-grey, black and white plumage.

Of considerable interest in this area is the enigmatic Tanimbar Bush-Warbler *Cettia carolinae*, described as recently as 1987 by Frank Rozendaal. I was fortunate enough to obtain close, prolonged views of a single individual as it foraged close to the ground in an open tangle of vines in the forest understorey. It was associating with a small bird flock including Cinnamon-tailed *Rhipidura fuscorufa* and Long-tailed *R. opistherythra* Fantails, and Rufous-chested Flycatchers *Ficedula dumetoria*. The nearest population of the last species is the nominate race across Wallace's Line on Lombok - an interesting distributional puzzle for historical biogeographers to unravel!

The road crosses a large tidal channel about 15 km further north. The tall forest just south of the channel and to the east of the road is a good area for the stunningly plumaged Slaty-backed Thrush *Zoothera schistacea*. This species is best located by its piercing high-pitched 'tzee' call. Unlike the Fawn-breasted Thrush, it spends most of its time in the subcanopy of the forest.

Many of the same species seen near the garden compound back near the main road can be found here and I also saw a single Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*. Common species of the forests of Yamdena include the White-browed Triller *Lalage moesta*, Black-eared Oriole *Oriolus bouroensis*, Rufous-sided Gerygone *Gerygone dorsalis*, Golden-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca hemixantha*, Wallacean Whistler *Pachycephala arctitorquis*, Tanimbar Starling *Aplonis crassa*, Black-faced Friarbird *Philemon moluccensis*, White-tufted Honeyeater *Lichmera squamata* and Banda Myzomela *Myzomela boiei*.

If time permits, it is worth hiring a speedboat from Saumlaki to explore some of the small islands around the entrance to Saumlaki Bay. We spent a few hours on Nus Tabon and saw several Island Monarchs *Monarcha cinerascens* whilst Island Whistler *Pachycephala phaionotus* must be a possibility.

Along the fringe of Saumlaki Bay we found a feeding Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* and more than 100 Australian Pelicans *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. We watched a number of Great and Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata minor* and *F. ariel* circle over the bay on the look out for birds to steal food from.

There are still opportunities for interesting and important discoveries in Tanimbar. There have been no recent sightings anywhere of the Lesser Masked-Owl *Tyto sororcula*, a species confined to Buru and Tanimbar, which must surely be present in the still extensive forests of Yamdena (field work by BirdLife recorded *Tyto* calls during April and May 1993).

KAI

The small cluster of islands (Kai Besar, Kai Kecil and Tual) forming the Kai islands, lie about 160 km north-east of Tanimbar. Surprisingly, it has only four endemic birds and a rather impoverished avifauna. A few species are common to both the Tanimbar and Kai island groups such as the Black-faced Friarbird *Philemon moluccensis* but in general Kai's avifauna is more Papuan in character, as demonstrated by the presence of White-bibbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli* and Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*.

Getting there. Merpati operates at least two return flights per week on an F28 from Ambon to Tual, usually on Sunday and Tuesday. The F28 is a much larger plane than the CS2 which does the Ambon-

Saumlaki run and consequently getting a seat is much less of a problem. The cost is RP155,000 (c.£50) one way. It is usually possible to fly Tual-Saumlaki (and the reverse) at least twice a week. This is RP98,000 (c.£32) one way. Return tickets can be purchased only at the Merpati office in Tual.

Accommodation. There are several small hotels in Tual including the Hotel Mira which is adequate and cheap at RP5,000 per person (c.£1.70). The town of Tual lies on the island of the same name and is connected to Kai Kecil by bridge. The airport is actually on Kai Kecil but it is only a short taxi ride into town.

Getting around and birding. Kai Kecil and Tual are much more developed than Tanimbar. The population is larger and as a consequence the forest seems to have been reduced to patches. Arriving from Ambon, the plane drops in from the west revealing the northern tip of Kai Kecil covered in forest. Unfortunately, our attempts to reach it with a vehicle were unsuccessful. We discovered a small patch of forest known locally as Taman Angrekk which is within easy access of Dullah village, and can be reached by buses leaving from near the main harbour. The park (taman) is signposted to the right just before entering Dullah and is a small fenced forest patch surrounding a lake.

Golden-bellied White-eye *Zosterops uropygialis* was seen there on several occasions and is probably common. More interesting was a pair of Kai Cicadabirds *Coracina dispar* watched feeding quietly in mid-canopy, as this species has not been recorded recently on Tanimbar. Kai Coucal *Centropus spilopterus* can be found easily in surrounding scrub, particularly in late afternoon when it becomes more vocal. Nearby, a fine female Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa* was observed foraging in a patch of newly burned ground.

It is worth checking the lake in Taman Angrekk for waterbirds while the harbour at Tual is good for Great and Lesser Frigatebirds.

Kai Besar

The Pearl-bellied White-eye *Zosterops grayi* and the White-tailed Monarch *Monarcha leucurus* are endemic to this narrow rugged island. There are two boats daily, leaving at 10h00 and 12h00 from Tual and arriving at Elat on Kai Besar. This costs RP1,750 (c.40p) and takes just over 2 hours. The boats return at 12h00 and 14h00.

Kai Besar appears to be almost completely covered in coconut plantations although apparently there is good forest in the far north. Getting there would involve another boat journey and possibly an expensive charter. Some forest can be seen high on the ridge above Elat and this can be reached by hiring a vehicle to Voko on the east side. There is no accommodation at Voko and so we camped at the forest edge although it may be possible to stay with local people. At the ridge crest we found a number of small trails into the rather degraded forest, but both the endemic white-eye and monarch are fairly common. Kai Coucal is abundant in roadside scrub.

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Advice on visiting Tanimbar and Kai from BirdLife International Indonesia Programme

Tanimbar and Kai are away from tourist routes, and those tourists who do get there rarely venture far from the towns. If you plan to explore further into the interior of these islands we recommend you get a letter of introduction which explains your interest, and that you report to the Kepala Desa (village head) on arriving at each village.

Falciparum malaria occurs in East Indonesia, and it can be fatal. Wear long sleeved shirts and long trousers, after dusk, use repellent, and a mosquito net or coils while sleeping. Make sure that you have up-to-date advice from your doctor before travelling.

Tanimbar Corella on Yamdena

In this article Yusup Chayadin relates his findings on the status of the Tanimbar Corella following intensive fieldwork earlier this year on Yamdena island. Yusup is Parrot Officer with the BirdLife Indonesia - Indonesia Programme, and his post is funded by PAPAGEIEN.

The Tanimbar Corella *Cacatua goffini* is endemic to the Tanimbar archipelago in the far east of Indonesia (see map on page xv). Its closest relative is probably the widespread Australian species *C. sanguinea*. In recent years the international conservation community has voiced concern about the status of *C. goffini*. It has been traded in significant numbers for a number of years: the number imported into CITES member states has been as high as 13,500 birds in one year. Being endemic to a small island it was believed that this level of trapping was having a significant effect on the wild populations. Because of this, the species was placed on CITES Appendix I at the last meeting of the Parties in Japan in 1992 - banning the international trade of the species. However, the Indonesian Directorate General of Nature Conservation and Forest Protection (PHPA) continued to receive reports from local people that the species was an agricultural pest.

Up until recently Tanimbar was one of the least known parts of Indonesia with only a handful of visits since 1924 (see pp. 53-55) and no objective information was available on the conservation status of *C. goffini*. Rectifying this situation was considered a priority of the newly established PHPA/ BirdLife International Indonesia Programme, and for this reason I travelled to Tanimbar in April 1992 with a colleague, Nick Brickle, and Berti Mannopo from PHPA in the Moluccas. My objectives were to evaluate the impact of *C. goffini* on village maize harvests and to assess the status of the species. This article relates my findings.

My arrival was timed to coincide with the maize harvest on the island and after meeting government officials in Saumlaki to explain the purpose of my visit, I headed off into the villages to assess whether significant numbers of the cockatoo were indeed raiding crops.

The one road out of Saumlaki is paved for 30 km and then extends a further 45 km as gravel. I had randomly selected seven villages along this from which to conduct transects. Because Tanimbar is seasonally short of water, villages are located along the coast. Behind each village is a band of coconut plantations which provide the principal form of monetary income for the people. The coconuts give way to agriculture, which in turn is replaced by recently cleared fields before the forest boundary is met 6 to 8 km from the sea. The survey plan involved walking a transect from village to forest in the afternoon, camping at the forest boundary and then studying feeding rates of the cockatoo on maize to assess the amount of damage on the following day.

From these seven villages I made 11 transects to the forest edge. The length of these ranged from 500 m to 3 km from coconut plantations (where no *C. goffini* were observed). Along these transects I encountered *C. goffini* in groups of between two and 305. Perpendicular distance was measured to each encounter and from this a density per km^2 was calculated, with those individuals seen in flight being excluded from the analysis. The result was a density of 121 / km^2 (SE=61 / km^2) in agriculture. On Yamdena (the largest island) the area of agriculture is estimated from a satellite image to be 102 km^2. Thus between 6,100 and 18,300 *C. goffini* are estimated to be in agricultural land during the month of April.

At 250 m intervals along each transect I recorded the proportion of different land uses in a 100 m radius. Small fields of maize, and mixed fields of cassava, banana, sweet potato and beans are planted amongst scrub and forest; 8 of the *C. goffini* contacts (=1,064 individuals) were in maize. Occasionally I observed them feeding in beans and villagers told me that they feed on all other crops when the maize is finished.

I was able to study feeding behaviour by observing large flocks on four days through a telescope from a distance of approximately 50 m. At three of these sites my observations coincided with the arrival of the field owner, who was understandably a little perplexed that I was sitting watching the birds rather than scaring them off. From my observations the cockatoos were feeding on maize only in the early morning up until 08h30 and the maximum period I observed a flock feeding in a single field was 45 minutes. Feeding cockatoos were often displaced by another flock member.

After alighting on a maize plant *C. goffini* pulls at the middle of the enclosing leaves of the maize cob to get at the corn. Only the white base of the grain is eaten, with the yellow part being discarded. Each plant has three cobs which have on average 350 grains. The farmers told me that if 50% is damaged the cob was discarded. I calculate that an individual *C. goffini* can destroy three cobs or the product of one maize plant in less than an hour.

On my transects the proportion of agricultural land under maize production was 27%. If we take this to be typical for all agricultural plots the area of maize on Yamdena is 1,717 ha. Maize on the study transects was planted at a density of 6 per m^2. Assuming an individual cockatoo destroys one plant a day and there are 12,200 in agricultural areas then *C. goffini* is destroying 1% of the crop per day. As maize is 'vulnerable' to predation from the cockatoos for several days before harvest I estimate that the species is damaging 10% of the maize crop of Yamdena.

The people on Yamdena grow maize for their own consumption. The twist in this story is that the maize has no cash value, but the cockatoos do as a commodity for island export. Villagers have been catching cockatoos for about 10 years. Usually a village has two cockatoo catchers, who will sometimes also catch in other villages depending on where the flocks are and the level of demand. Two techniques are used to trapC. *goffini* The first involves winding a string of nylon nooses around a maize plant, and the second surrounding a decoy cockatoo with a string of the same nooses in area of bare ground. During the maize season a team of two men catches 30-50 cockatoos a day.

The bird catcher sells the cockatoos to a trader in Saumlaki for a price of between Rp 2,500 and Rp 35,000 (US$1.2-$17.5). In 1992, before international trade in the species was banned, the bird catcher was paid US$6.5 for each bird. When birds were exported internationally, the Saumlaki trader sold on to a dealer in Ambon, who in turn sold to exporters in Jakarta. The average annual income for a villager in South Maluku is US$260.

After a month studying the cockatoo's effect on maize production Nick Brickle and Berti Mannopo joined me to make an assessment of the species's status in the forest. To do this we made two cross island transects. The first crossed the proposed protected area from Tutukembung on the west coast to Wabar on the east. This was a distance of 45 km which we covered in eight days. From Wabar we rented a small boat to travel the 33 km south to the next community of Makatian. From there we trekked 40 km back across Yamdena to Loroulung. This was through the forest which is covered by a logging concession. As the first biologists to walk across the island these were pioneering and adventurous transects. Our team included two guides, a cook and four porters. Water is in very short supply and its availability defined the distance we walked each day.

One evening, I asked our porters about the long knives they were carrying. They told me they were head hunting knives which they carried because relations between their village and the one we were going to were currently strained. When we arrived at the village we found people sharpening defensive bamboo poles in readiness for a war, but as it happened everybody viewed the arrival of two foreigners of greater interest than fighting!

During these transects we employed two methodologies, point counts (Variable Circular Plot) and encounter rates. Point counts were made every 250 m between dawn and 10h00. On the point counts we recorded all birds as the survey was also designed to evaluate the viability of the protected area for conserving Yamdena's other restricted-range birds. Encounter rates are simple means of measuring relative abundance and thus for monitoring population fluctuations. Encounter rates were recorded for *C. goffini* and Blue-streaked Lory *Eos reticulata*. Flocks of *C. goffini* were seen in the forest but instead they were recorded in ones or twos.

On the transects there was a clear division between a tall and a low forest type, but cockatoo densities did not differ significantly between them. Mean densities of 124 *C. goffini*/km^2 (SE=23/km^2) were calculated. The area of forest on Yamdena is 2,909 km^2 giving a population estimate in forest of between 293,800 and 427,623. With the c. 12,000 in agriculture the population of *C. goffini* on Yamdena (which is 53% of the species terrestrial range) is estimated to be between 299,900 and 445,945.

This study suggests that the Tanimbar Cockatoo is not an endangered species. A review of the species and at what levels it might be traded at is needed, and should include allowances for domestic trade, illegal trade and mortality.

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Wetlands and waterbirds of the Banggai Islands, Sulawesi

The authors describe the wetlands and waterbirds they found during a survey of the Sula Scrubfowl. They highlight the lack of information on the distribution and abundance of waterbirds, a situation that is common throughout Indonesia.

The Banggai Islands, which lie east of Sulawesi (Figure 1), have only two documented visits by ornithologists since 1938[1,2]. During our fieldwork on the status of the threatened Sula Scrubfowl[2] *Megapodius bernsteinii* on these islands we also visited some of the wetlands. These included sites in the interior of the largest island, Peleng, which has never been visited by biologists[4].

Below, we give descriptions of each site that we visited, including information on the name of the nearest village, approximate minimum size of the wetland, distance from the coast, name of island and date of visit. Bird species not previously recorded are marked with an asterisk* for a new island record and a plus+ for a new record to the Banggai island group. All these localities are shown in Figure 1.

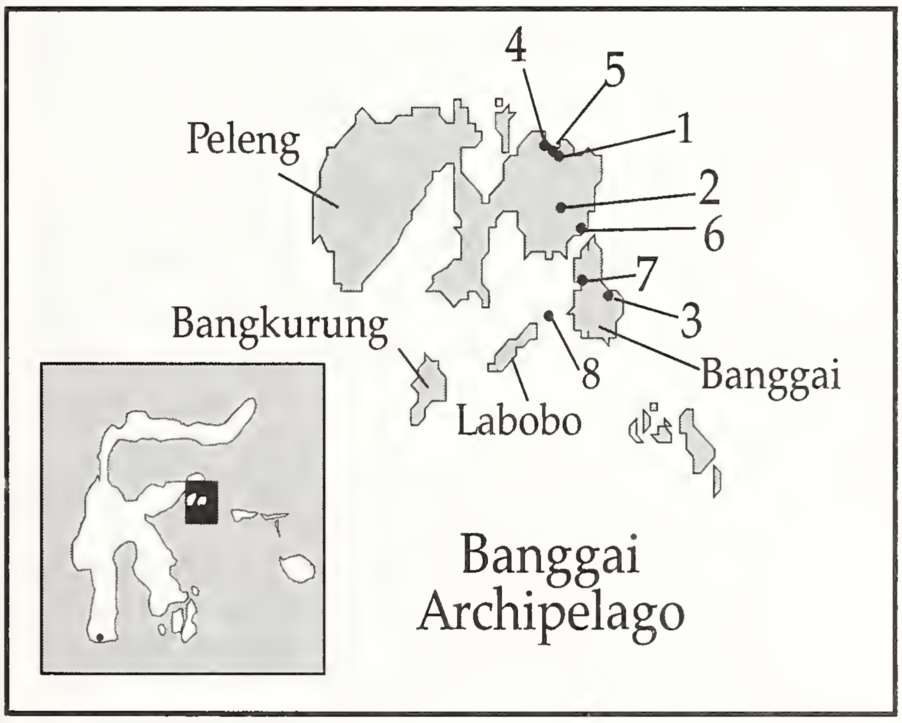

Figure 1. Map of wetlands visited.

1. *'Lama Matano' pond ('Lalong' village, c.2 ha, about 1 km from coast, Peleng Island, 23 October 1991).* A small forest pond surrounded by secondary vegetation, scrub and cultivation areas. Local people report that the area was cleared in the mid 1980s, but during our visit to the pond birds were abundant. Birds were seen resting and foraging, and included two Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis**, five Little Pied Cormorants *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*, one Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*+, 30+ Spotted Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna guttata*+, 50+ Wandering Whistling-Ducks *Dendrocygna arcuata*+, one Black-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopis melanorhyncha*, and Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting**, the last species being identified from Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* mainly by its distinctive call.

The sighting of the two whistling-duck species together on one pond is quite interesting as there are few records of them occurring sympatrically in Wallacea[3,5]. Our limited observations made during the trip suggest that the Wandering Whistling-Duck tends to feed more at night than the Spotted Whistling-Duck.

2. *'Danau (='lake') Tendetung' ('Batangbabasal' village, c.100 ha, about 3 km from sea, Peleng Island, 27 October 1991).* This is a herbaceous freshwater swamp, which may form a floodplain lake at other times of the year. A stream of 2-4 m width meanders along the swamp edge. The bank vegetation included reeds *Phragmites*, and *Cyperus malaccensis*. Birds seen there were two Purple Herons *Ardea purpurea*, four Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta*, five Cinnamon Bitterns *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*+, two Brahminy Kites *Haliastur indus*, 10 Sunda/Grey Teals *Anas gibberifrons/gracilis* in small groups (including one with a duckling), one Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*, a flock of 12 Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis fulva*+, and a group of at least 20 Chestnut Munias *Lonchura malacca*+. We also had two brief sightings of Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*+, the identification based on head-shape, large size, colour of flanks and the wing pattern.

3. *'Ombuli' pond ('Kelapa lima' village, probably smaller than 2 ha, less than 1 km from coast, Banggai Island, 30 October 1991).* This pond is situated behind logged coastal mangroves and is surrounded by heavily degraded forest, once holding the valuable *Shorea* trees. Birds seen along the sandy coast and mangrove edge included a few Reef Egrets *Egretta sacra*, two Black-billed Kingfishers and several Moluccan Hanging-Parrots *Loriculus amabilis* feeding on flowers. At the pond two Common Kingfishers were seen together. They were not very shy, and had a sharper, shriller call than the Blue-eared Kingfisher which we saw

earlier at 'Lama Matano'.

4. Tambak fishpond ('Tatakalai' village, 25 October 1991). The various (resident and migratory) waterbirds seen included at least 51 Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*+.

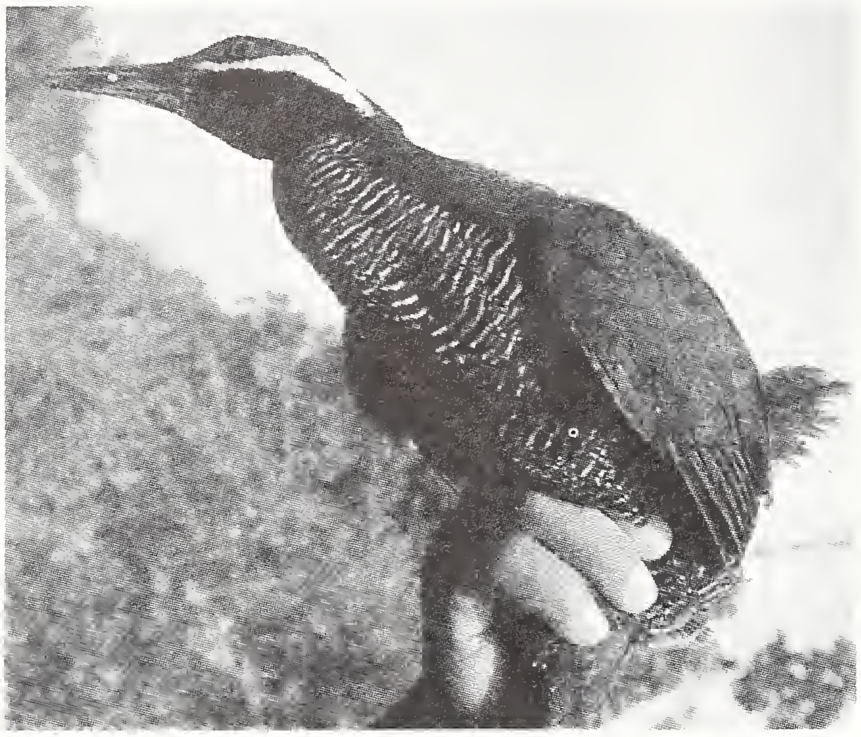

Figure 2. Barred Rail Gallirallus torquatus *in the hands of a local bird catcher.*

Note the lack of obvious white barring on the throat and fore-neck, which is typical of the *sulcirostris* form which is endemic to the Banggai and Sula islands[5].

5. Mudflat and tall Rhizophora mangrove ('Luksagu', Peleng Island, 4 November 1991). The birds seen were 20 Sunda/Grey Teals *Anas gibberifrons/gracilis*, two Barred Rails *Gallirallus torquatus* (seen and heard), at least 30 Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*, two Common Greenshanks *Tringa nebularia*, and two Sacred Kingfishers *Halcyon sanctus* A group of nine White Imperial Pigeons *Ducula luctuosa*, identified easily in flight by the silvery trailing edge to their wings, was watched preparing to roost in a tall mangrove tree. A group of five Sulawesi Trillers *Lalage leucopygialis* was seen foraging at low trees and near the ground. Interestingly, for the last two species White and Bruce[5] did not include mangroves among their habitat requirements.

6. Mudflats and mangrove patches ('Banggai' district, Banggai Island, 13 November 1991). The birds seen included one Little Egret *Egretta garzetta**, three Pacific Reef-Egrets *Egretta sacra* (two black and one white phase), one Striated Heron *Butorides striatus**, five Grey-tailed Tattlers*Tringa brevipes*, one Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, one Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*+, two Far Eastern Curlews *Numenius madagascariensis*+.

7. Beach cliff near 'Koleko' (on the south east coast of Peleng Island, 29 October 1992). In the early morning at least 62 Brahminy Kites *Haliastur indus* were seen near a communal roost, along a stretch of about 3 km.

8. Shallow sea between Banggai and Mansalean harbours (Banggai Island and Labobo Island, respectively, several dates in mid and late November). A spectacular sight of eight Brown Boobies *Sula leucogaster* feeding among a loose flock of at least 2,000 Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* were seen on the early morning of 29 November 1991, with a number of Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel* and large numbers of terns also noted. On the nearby coast raptors included Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (common locally), White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (occasionally seen) and Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* (common locally).

Discussion

Although this report is by no means extensive in coverage of species and localities, it does point to a great gap in the knowledge of the Banggai islands' birds and habitats. At the time of this survey no attempt was made to distinguish between the forms of the Sunda and the Grey Teal, but flocks were found in both fresh- and brackish-water habitats.

Of the surveyed localities, particular attention should be given to the interior wetlands on Peleng, of which 'Danau Tendetung' seems to possess recreational and conservation importance.

Acknowledgements

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Birding in the Sula Islands

The authors visited Taliabu in the Sula islands group in 1991 as part of the University of East Anglia (UEA)-Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)-Directorate General for Forest and Nature Conservation (PHPA)-BirdLife Indonesian Programme Taliabu Project. In this article they summarise the habitats and bird communities found on Taliabu, the key species of the Sula islands. They also give advice on how to visit this little known part of Indonesia.

The Sula Islands, which comprise Taliabu, Mangole and Sanana, form the westernmost island group in the Moluccas. Taliabu (c.1°80'S 124°60'E), the largest island of the group, covers a total land area of c.3,000 km^2, with the highest peak along the central mountainous spine being 1,649 m. Very little ornithological work has been carried out on the Sula Islands, particularly Taliabu. There were a few visits by explorers and specimen collectors at the turn of the century, most recently in 1938. The continued presence of most of the endemic species was confirmed only in December 1988, when Dennis Yong visited Mangole and Sanana.

Despite the lack of information the island group has been highlighted as an important area for threatened and endemic birds: BirdLife International's (then ICBP) recent analysis of areas of avian endemism[4] grouped the Sula Islands with the neighbouring Banggai Archipelago to form an Endemic Bird Area (EBA). The Banggai and Sula Islands EBA has 17 restricted-range species, nine of which are confined to the EBA and listed as being globally threatened[6] .

During September and October 1991 a team of seven ecologists visited northern and western areas of Taliabu to assess the status of the island's threatened and near-threatened birds and to use these results to make recommendations for the establishment of a proposed reserve on Taliabu[2].

Habitats and land use on Taliabu

A substantial proportion of Taliabu is still forested. Selective logging of the commercially valuable dipterocarp tree species has produced a mosaic of differently-aged forest stands in lowland areas (below 700 m). There are few extensive tracts of primary lowland forest remaining, except perhaps in the central south-west of the island. Shifting agriculture and commercial plantations of cloves are found in the coastal lowlands.

Above c.800 m the dipterocarp forest changes to primary montane forest, which is shorter in stature and contains a higher density of trees. The other main habitats on the island include narrow strips of tidal forest (mangrove) along much of the coastline, interspersed with mudflats, sandy beaches and the occasional log pond (worth checking for Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*), and a reedswamp.

A network of logging tracks (unpaved roads) and paths traverse the coastal plain and adjacent hills, providing access across much of the northern and western parts of the island. There is at least one path which crosses the centre of the island in a north-south direction, cutting through montane forest up to c.1,000 m.

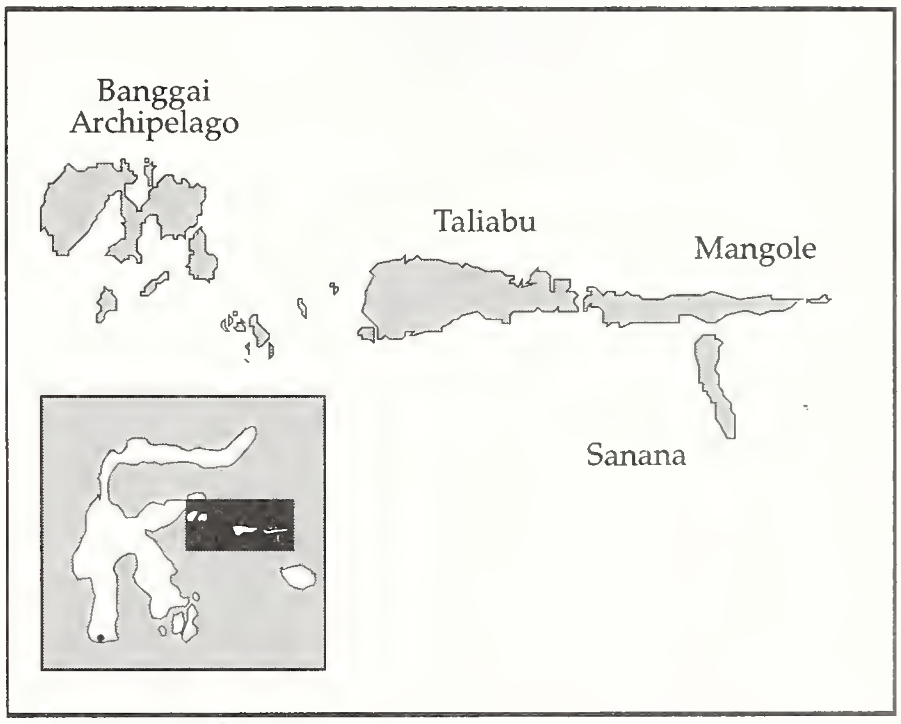


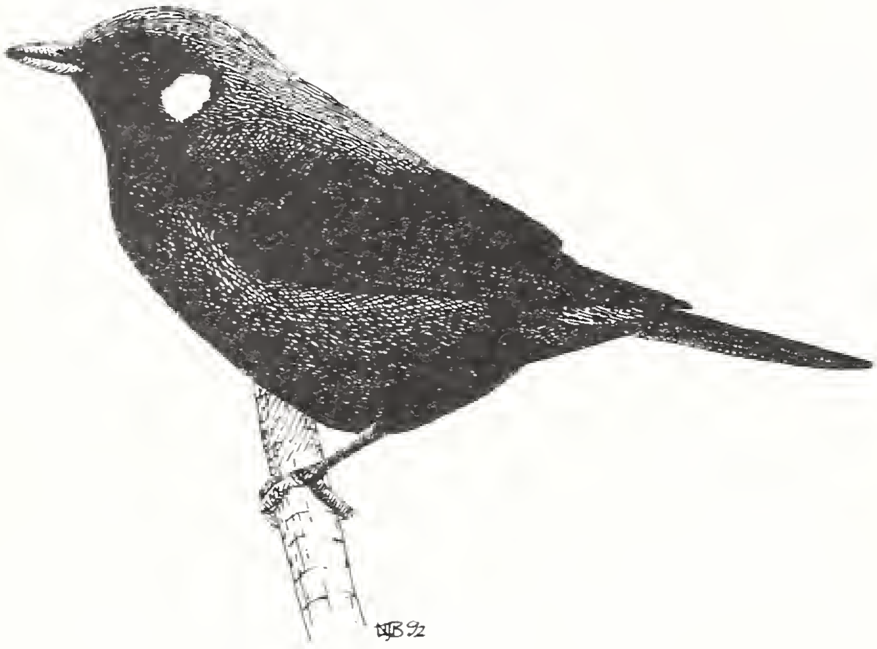
Figure 1. Map of the Sula Islands.

Endemic, threatened and perhaps even undescribed species

Most of the island's endemic and threatened birds appear to be relatively common. All can be found in lowland forest, and several frequent disturbed habitats and forest fringes.

Sula Pitta *Pitta dohertyi* is confined to lowland areas on Taliabu. It occurs in a variety of habitats including heavily degraded forest, where it is perhaps easiest to see, and especially favours areas where large stands of bamboo dominate the forest understorey. Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans,* is found in similar habitats, but probably prefers denser secondary vegetation. It can be extremely elusive, and frequently calls only for brief periods at dawn and dusk.

Sula Scrubfowl *Megapodius bernsteinii*, occurs commonly in forest and dense scrub in the coastal lowlands. The males deliver their territorial wailing calls in duet with the 'clucking' females especially during the first few hours of light, but occasionally they can be heard even in the middle of the night. Locating them is easy enough as they move noisily and somewhat clumsily around the forest floor, but prolonged close views require patience as they are shy birds.



Red-backed Thrush Zoothera erythronota
by Nigel Bean

Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota* is typical of its genus, being shy, elusive and easily overlooked (only 3-4 individuals were seen during the study period). The bird frequents all storeys from ground level to the canopy of the smaller (c.25 m) forest trees. It is striking in appearance, being black below and on the head, with a large oval white spot on the ear coverts, and deep, rich chestnut above, from the lower nape onto the rump (the birds on Taliabu have not as yet been assigned to a race).

The two endemic *Coracina* species can be found in all but the most degraded of habitats. Both of them are very vocal, Slaty Cuckoo-shrike's *C. schistacea* characteristic call being a strident, harsh trill, whilst Sula Cicadabird *C. sula* delivers a variety of rather explosive, often nasal whistles. The unobtrusive Henna-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias colonus* is also fairly catholic in its habitat choice. The rather faint song, comprising a series of short, shrill notes descending in tone, can often be heard in degraded forest and on agricultural fringe.

There are two endemic mynas in the Sula and Banggai archipelagos. Helmeted Myna *Basilornis galeatus* prefers less disturbed forests of both lowland and montane areas, while Bare-eyed Myna *Streptocitta albertinae* is apparently confined to the lowlands and is seen more often in heavily degraded forest or perched in isolated tall trees in zones of shifting agriculture. Both species make quite bizarre sounds: Helmeted Myna having a single very deep, hollow boom, repeated at regular intervals of a few seconds, and Bare-eyed Myna's song consisting of a series of high-pitched drawn-out, grating whistles.

The only species endemic to Taliabu itself is the Taliabu Masked-Owl *Tyto nigrobrunnea*. Prior to the expedition's visit this bird was known only from the type specimen, a female collected by J. J. Menden in 1938[1,3]. Whilst spotlighting from a logging truck one evening, we rounded a corner and almost ran one down as it stood bolt upright in the middle of a dirt road traversing selectively logged forest. It remained there for about 30 seconds before flying off into the adjacent trees. This was our only sighting of the species, and thus its true status, habitat preferences (probably a forest dwelling *Tyto*) and vocalisations remain unknown.

We heard frequently another owl, probably an *Otus* sp., but saw it rarely (and it was never seen well). It delivers a long 'churring' song, in flight and when perched, which is similar in quality to the Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, but is slightly hollower and deeper. This is perhaps an undescribed species, an idea first proposed by Dennis Yong who heard and saw it on Mangole and Sanana in 1988.

Maroon-chinned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus subgularis* is common, as is the Black-naped Fruit-Dove *P. melanospila*. Both species have distinctive deep cooing call notes, but the former can be difficult to locate, tending to reside in the densest canopies of the tallest trees. The Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* is characteristically elusive: our first confirmation of its existence on the island was when two were brought to us by local people who trapped them in ground snares (to be kept as pets).

Other restricted-range and widespread species

There are 11 columbids found on Taliabu. The restricted-range White Imperial Pigeon *Ducula* *luctuosa* is common in open woodland below 200 m, where large gatherings of the species form just prior to dusk. White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni* and the White-faced Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena manadensis* both occur only on Sulawesi and the Sula Islands. Both species prefer lowland forests on Taliabu but on Sulawesi the imperial pigeon prefers forests of higher altitude[7].

Sula Cicadabird Coracina sula
by Nigel Bean

There are at least thirty-seven parrot species in Wallacea, many of which have restricted ranges and are threatened by habitat loss, hunting and trapping for the cage-bird trade[5]. Fortunately there was very little evidence of trapping on Taliabu, and all five parrot species found on the island are common. The lowland Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis* (restricted-range) is abundant in even the most degraded habitats. The night-flying Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus* is encountered most frequently in noisy flocks around dawn and dusk, favouring agricultural areas where it feeds. Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* is less gregarious and less obtrusive, being seen usually in pairs and preferring the least disturbed forests. The restricted-range Yellow-and-green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis,* and Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus* occur only on Sulawesi and the Sula Islands, both found most commonly in montane forest, but are also relatively common in the lowland forests.

The montane forests of Taliabu holds considerably fewer species than the lowland forests, and notably fewer endemics. However, several species are confined to this forest type on the island. These include Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus,* Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra,* Little Pied Flycatcher *F. westermanni* and Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus,* all of Sundaic origin, and Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephallus,* Island Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis* and Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera* of Australo-Papuan origin. Additionally, the restricted-range Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni,* and Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus affinis,* and the more widespread Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* occur most commonly in montane forest.

The lowlands host a number of species in addition to those already mentioned, including Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis,* Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica,* and Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis.* Noisy flocks of Black-faced Munias *Lonchura molucca,* as well as Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis,* Pied Triller *Lalage nigra,* Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens,* Ivory-backed Wood-swallow *Artamus monachus* and Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons* are common in agricultural areas, scrub and degraded forest-edge. The haunting calls of Black-billed Koels *Eudynamys melanorhyncha* compete with the local muezzins at dawn and dusk, whilst the melodic four-note song of the Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea* often continues into the sultry midday heat.

The restricted-range Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota* is found in selectively logged forests. There are several species of raptor on the islands including, Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus,* Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rhodogaster,* Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii* and Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus.* Forest kingfishers include an endemic subspecies of Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda sulana,* which has a white rump patch, and the tiny, stunning Variable Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus.*

Passage migrants and non-breeding visitors

The western Indonesian islands provide an ideal staging post for trans-equatorial migrants, and the non-breeding grounds for species from both northern and southern temperate latitudes. The Sula Islands are non-breeding quarters for a number of Australian species including Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis,* Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus,* Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae,* and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae.* There are also several species which breed in north Asia that spend their non-breeding season in the Sula Islands, notably Gray's Warbler *Locustella fasciolata,* Oriental Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis,* Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis,* Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta,* Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* and Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus.* White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* and Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* are both migrants to the Sula Islands, and they overfly Taliabu.

Ivory-backed Wood-swallow Artamus monachus
by Nigel Bean

A number of waders can be found around the coasts and along the wider rivers. Typical species include Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus,* Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus,* Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata,* Little Curlew *Numenius minutus,* Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis,* and Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* (migrants), together with Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva,* Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius,* Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* and Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella* (non-breeding visitors).

Mangrove, freshwater swamp and sandy beaches
The mangroves are favoured by many of the shorebirds already mentioned above and also waterbirds such as Great-billed Heron, and the vociferous Black-billed Kingfishers *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* as well as Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa,* Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis* and Metallic Starling *A. metallica* . The reedswamp and adjacent patches of wet grassland are good for several rallids, including Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis,* Barred Rail *G. torquatus* (which also frequents dense scrub and forest fringe) and White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea.* Other species found there include Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus,* Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis,* and large numbers of non-breeding Oriental Reed-Warblers. Tall, dead or defoliated trees are scattered throughout the reedswamp, and more typically forest-dwelling species, including the two endemic mynas and several columbids, use them to perch on whilst crossing between forest blocks. The quiet sandy beaches are the best places to see the Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii* and Beach Thick-knee *Burhinus giganteus.*

Seabirds
The status of many seabirds in Wallacea is still poorly known so it is worth looking out for them on the inter-island boat crossings. Among the more likely species are Great *Fregata minor* and Lesser Frigatebirds *F. ariel,* Masked *Sula dactylatra,* Red-footed *S. sula* and Brown Boobies *S. leucogaster,* Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas,* Great Crested-Tern *Sterna bergii* (common), and Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus.* Unusual species that we saw during our visit were Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* and Pomarine Jaeger *S. pomarinus* (few records of either species from Wallacea), and a Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* with a small flock of Bridled Terns. A spectacular sight is the flocks of over 300 non-breeding Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus.*

Travelling to the Sula Islands
The easiest way to reach the Sula Islands is via Ambon, the provincial capital of Maluku Province. From Kota Ambon (Ambon's main town) the Sula Islands can be reached by sea or air. Flights run by Barito Pacific Timber Group (BPTG) go at least three times a week. They have an office in Kota Ambon and the flight to Mangole costs in excess of US$120 per person. Alternatively there is a somewhat unpredictable, but very cheap weekly passenger boat (the 'Delta Terate'). It sails overnight from Ambon to Sanana, continuing on to Mangole (a further eight hours) and then Ternate (access island to Halmahera), before returning. It should be possible to stay on both Mangole and Sanana. At

Falabisahaya (Mangole), where the airport is situated, there is a large plywood factory owned by BPTG, and a guest house. This could make a good base from which to explore the adjacent forest along the logging roads, and to look for the Sula Island endemics. There are two good restaurants and an excellent general store at Falabisahaya.

Anyone wishing to travel on to Taliabu should contact the logging company, from whom longboats can be hired (or hitched a ride on?) to the northern coast of the island. It should be possible to be based at one of the local logging camps at minimal cost. When planning a visit to the islands sufficient time (at least 2 weeks) should be budgeted to allow for logistical problems. If you want to make long excursions into the interior of any of the islands, or camp overnight in the forest it is advisable to take a local guide - there did not appear to be any accurate maps of the logging roads and local paths. A working knowledge of Bahasa Indonesian is also important. For further information, please don't hesitate to contact either of us.

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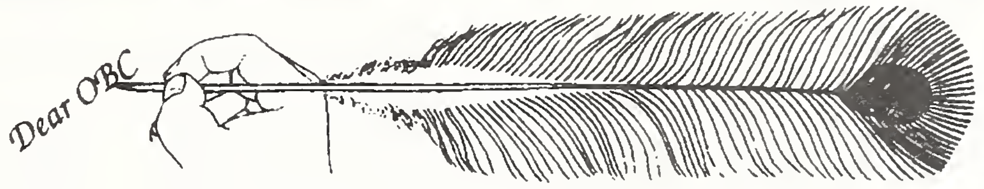
To the editor



A note on the Bare-throated Whistler

It is not often that one chances upon an endemic that has both beautiful plumage and a stunning voice. The Bare-throated Whistler *Pachycephala nudigula* is endemic to the islands of Flores and Sumbawa. White and Bruce[5] are correct in describing the species as 'one of the most striking Lesser Sunda endemics', but the rest of their description does this splendid bird less than justice.

The author first identified this bird at dawn on 1 August 1993, on the 1,650 m Golo Lusang pass that lies 7 km south of Ruteng on the Ruteng-Iteng road in western Flores. During the previous week, a song recalling that of the Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* had been heard in wooded patches along the road east of Ruteng (1,100m), but no sighting had been obtained. In the secondary forest and forest margins on Golo Lusang, this was the dominant song heard that morning. Until identified, the author had dubbed it the 'Flores Nightingale'.

White and Bruce[5] quotes Rensch[2], that it sings high in trees. However, unlike a thrush, it sings while moving around in the middle storey, rather than from a prominent perch. The song has many similarities to that of the Song Thrush, with its variations and repetitions, but the repetitions tend to be more prolonged (as might be expected for a whistler), and there is a wider variety of notes. Some notes recall those of the Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, and they rarely have the 'whiplash' quality of many whistlers. One bird was observed giving a wheezy chattering song interspersed with parrot-like notes.

In full voice, at close range on a still morning, the Bare-throated Whistler must rank high in the ratings of the world's best song birds. I was amused to find later that Schmutz[3] had preceded me in dubbing this bird the 'Flores-Nachtigall'. Schmutz points out that the bare throat patch becomes inflated and blood-red when singing, receding to a neutral colour when deflated. In contrast, recent observers do not draw particular attention to this species (Gibbs[1], and Verhoeye[4], who note only that it is 'a very vocal species').

The description in White and Bruce[5] is evidently based on museum specimens, and hence the throat patch is 'bare reddish brown'. However, when singing, its deep red colour contrasts with the generally olive plumage, and particularly with the black head, the black extending as a breast bar around the base of the red throat.

Incidentally, there is another good location, readily accessible from Ruteng, that is not mentioned in either Gibbs[1] or Verhoeye[4]. Leave Ruteng on the road east towards Bajawa. After Mano, the main road branches south to pass Danau Ranamese. Take instead the left fork, a narrow paved road that eventually leads to Benteng Jawa. This road soon enters protection forest, within an hour's drive from Ruteng, and follows a ridge eastwards for some 7 km. By later taking a southerly fork, you will remain in forest for a further 5 km. I have not seen this forest at dawn, only in heavy afternoon fog, but this road would appear to provide as good access to forest (at 1,200 m and above) as any in Flores.

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Recently published

Birds - A photographic guide to the birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore *by Morten Strange and Allen Jeyarajasingam. Sun Tree Publishing Ltd, Singapore 1993. 258 pp, US$20.90 (sb).*

I remember the weeks before that first trip to South-East Asia. Thumbing the pages of King *et al.* again and again, but without any of it seeming to sink in. Reading the pages of photocopied 'gen' and wondering if I'd ever remember whether it was Kuala Gula or Kuala Selangor where I should turn left by the yellow hut and walk 200 m to reach the apparent stakeout for something I'd already forgotten. Most of the families were totally unfamiliar, never mind the species and trying to learn what they looked like from the paintings in King *et al.* was a seemingly impossible task. Had I been in that position now though, things would have been different.

South-East Asia's two leading bird photographers have come together to produce the first photographic guide to the region's birds. It is not a field guide, it covers only 290 species, but the authors state that they hope it 'will be a useful supplement to field guides based on paintings'. It is, but it is also much more.

The photographs are without exception, excellent, and even the most experienced birder will come across pictures to which the first reaction is 'I've never seen that species that well'. But this book should not be bought for simply ogling at the pictures: a site guide to the most important birding localities; a history of bird research and conservation in the region; an up-to-date Peninsular checklist and, perhaps most interesting of all, a resume of the current state of knowledge on migrations and breeding biology.

It all succeeds, particularly the chapter on our current knowledge in bringing home the fact again and again of what little is known, even about many of the commoner birds. For example, Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera* and Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides,* are two of the commonest birds on Fraser's Hill, Peninsular Malaysia, yet their nests have never been found. There is still an enormous amount for everybody to contribute to our basic knowledge of the region's birds.

Unfortunately for a book of this standard, one or two publisher's errors have slipped in. The photographs for Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus sepium* and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra* have been reversed, and in the introduction a photograph labelled 'Birding at Fraser's Hill' obviously isn't - all the birders are in a boat!

If you are to buy one book on the birds of the Malay peninsula in addition to a field guide, buy this one. Not only does it represent the finest collection of photographs of South-East Asian birds, but it is also simply the best introduction and background to birds and birding in the region yet produced.

Colin Poole

Natural History of Seram, Maluku, Indonesia

edited by Ian Darwin Edwards, Alastair A. MacDonald and John Proctor. Intercept Ltd, Andover, 1993. 240pp, £42.50 (hb).

This book, the first in a series of occasional publications, is a collection of papers reporting the work of Operation Raleigh's expeditions to the Manusela National Park, Seram (Maluku, Indonesia). There are twenty contributors, from academic institutions, conservation bodies and museums / botanical gardens (two are Indonesians). The hundreds of 'venturers' whose efforts were given freely during ten months of fieldwork on Seram are gratefully acknowledged throughout the book.

After a short introduction, the rest of the book is divided into eleven chapters covering the following topics; geology, soils, forest types, ferns, moths, arthropods, amphibians and reptiles, birds, mammals, humans, and medicinal plants. Surprisingly there is no butterfly section. While each chapter is basically a free-standing paper, some clever editing and cross-referencing means there is almost no repetition between chapters.

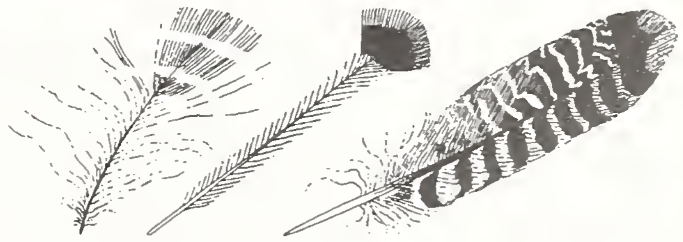
There seems to be a division between the chapters: The papers on soils, forest types, moths, and arthropods are rather scientific, while the remainder are more anecdotal (or at least less rigorous). The scientific papers follow the standard introduction - concise methods - results - discussion format and are extremely well presented and interesting. The high quality of the work by these experienced contributors is a good lesson to those planning expeditions on how 'to do' environmental science in difficult conditions.

The contents of the remaining chapters reflect more the title of the book. They will certainly be of interest to the visiting naturalist, but don't expect many identification hints (mammals excepted). All the papers are well-written, each having an individual style which makes the book very digestable. Particularly enjoyable was Professor Allen's history of human impact. Bowler and Taylor's section on birds is perhaps a little less successful. It is rather short (18 pages for 196 species whereas the depauperate mammal fauna gets 30 pages), and mainly lists birds and discusses some basic biogeographical and altitudinal relationships. More informative perhaps is the same authors' excellent annotated checklist of birds published in *Kukila* 4(1-2): 3-29 (see also *Birdwatching areas* 21-25).

The only real disappointment of this good-looking book were the 32 pages of photographs (superb sleeve photos excepted) which, while of reasonable quality, are all black and white. The lack of colour in these photos somewhat leaves the Seram scene unset. Perhaps a photo of an emaciated venturer knee-deep in mud and covered in mosquitoes and tropical ulcers might put the great achievement of 'making' this book in its true perspective.

Stuart Marsden

Stray feathers



Koshi Tappu wildlife camp, Nepal

Members seeking a memorable experience and luxurious accommodation may wish to visit Koshi Tappu Wildlife Camp in Nepal. The camp is located in the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the eastern corner of Nepal. The reserve covers a vast expanse of seasonally inundated grasslands, lagoons and remnant patches of forest. Local specialities include the endangered Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis*, while from May to September Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni* and Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* can also be seen. Accommodation is in deluxe safari tents and the rate of US$125 per night includes all meals and escorted outings with the experienced local naturalists. It is hoped that with more overseas tourists and greater involvement from the local people, the Nepalese government will be more motivated to afford increased protection to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. If you would like to visit Koshi Tappu Camp, then more details are available from the following addresses: Koshi Camp, P.O. Box 536 Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: 977-1-226130, 416227, Fax: 977-1-224237 or, Chautara, Bighton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9RB. England. Tel: 0962-733051. Tlx: 2286 SABHAIN NP. Fax: 0962-733368.

Changing status of the Bangkok Bird Club

The Bangkok Bird Club was established more than 20 years ago in order to promote the study and conservation of birds. From 12 July 1993 the club's status changed to that of a society with full legal status. The name of the new society will be the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST).

All assets of the Bangkok Bird Club, including the current membership, will be transferred to the society. **Thus members of the Bangkok Bird Club automatically become members of BCST and are requested to complete the society's membership form and return it to us**. There will be no extra charge for membership of the society and the current subscription rates will remain for the time being.

Information Wanted

For an upcoming field guide to the birds of the Indian Subcontinent (India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Andamans and Nicobars), S. Dillon Ripley would greatly appreciate copies of trip reports, new and unusual records, sound recordings, identification tips, corrections, and lists of photographs available. Information on birding localities and habitat conditions will be particularly useful. All assistance will be acknowledged in the publication. Please contact: Pamela C. Rasmussen, NHB Room 336 MRC 114, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Tel: (001 202) 357-2383; Fax (001 202) 357-1628.

Identification of Western Palearctic swifts by Philip Chantler *Dutch Birding, Volume 15, Number 3, pages 97-135, June 1993.* This 39 page article is fully illustrated, with 7 colour plates and 18 line drawings by Gerald Driessens and 14 black-and-white photographs. Copies of this issue amount to NLC 10.00 (including package and postage) and can be ordered by paying the amount into: Dutch giro account 01 50 697 in the name of Dutch Birding Association, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; or by sending the amount (in cash) to: Dutch Birding Association, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The Dutch Birding Association is a non-profit organisation run by unpaid volunteers.

Information request

Information is requested for a paper hopefully to be published in *Forktail* on the endemic and restricted range species of south India being written by Nigel Lindsey, Andrew Robertson and Nigel Redman. The aim of the paper is to summarise the current status and distribution of these species and we would therefore require the site, date and if possible the altitude of any sightings. The species that we are interested in are *Perdicula erythrorhyncha,Columba elphinstonii, Psittacula columboides,Phaenicophaeus viridirostris,Batrachostomus moniliger, Collocalia unicolor, Harpactes fasciatus, Ocyceros griseus, Anthracoceros coronatus, Megalaima rubricapilla, Galerida malabarica, Dendrocitta leucogastra, Pycnonotus priocephalus, Pycnonotus xantholaemus, Pycnonotus luteolus, Iole indica, Rhopocichla atriceps,Turdoides subrufus, Garrulax delesserti, Garrulax cachinnans, Garrulax jerdoni, Ficedula nigrorufa, Cyornis pallipes, Eumyias albicaudata, Schoenicola platyura, Brachypteryx major, Myiophonus horsfieldii, Anthus nilghiriensis, Nectarinia minima, Nectarinia lotenia*, and *Lonchura kelaarti*. All records or any other inquiries should be sent to Nigel Lindsey, 13 Dove Street, Saltaire Village, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 3EY, U.K.

Nepal bird records

Hem Sagar Baral of the Nepal Bird Watching Club and Tim and Carol Inskipp are currently collecting records of unusual bird species found in Nepal since 1990, as well as new distributional information. These records will be used in the compilation of a paper updating the second edition of *A guide to the birds of Nepal* by Carol and Tim Inskipp, published in 1991 by Christopher Helm. All records used will be fully acknowledged in the paper. Please send any records to Carol and Tim Inskipp, 1 Herneside, March Road, Welney, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9SB, U.K.

From the field

These are largely unconfirmed records covering the period from late January to late September 1993. We urge that, if they have not already done so, contributors provide full details to the relevant national organisations in due course.

BHUTAN

A male Blue-fronted Robin *Cinclidium frontale,* found by Tashigang Monastery, Dochu La on 30 May (CI, TI) was, surprisingly, the first record for the country. A White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis* by Ada Lake, central Bhutan on 16-17 April (CI, TI) was the second record for Bhutan. Lesser Rufous-headed (Black-browed)Parrotbills *Paradoxornis atrosuperciliaris* were recorded in the Shemgang Zone as follows: two near Shemgang on 28 March (DJ), two at Dalim on 27 April (CI, TI) and 15 above Tingtibi on 2 May (CI, TI). There is apparently only one previous Bhutanese record, also from this zone, in 1992 (D. Mills). Up to three Japanese Quails *Coturnix japonica* were heard singing and believed to be breeding in the Phobjika Valley on 7 and 20-22 May. Apart from a record of a singing bird near Lijiang, Yunnan, China in mid June 1986 (C. Robson *pers. comm.*), the nearest documented breeding localities appear to be in Hebei and Shandong, north-east China or possibly Guangdong, south China.

CHINA

A number of records were received from Beidaihe and surrounding areas, Hebei and the Beijing area (Sunbirder *et al.*). A singing Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus (inornatus) humei,* a vagrant to the east coast, was found in central Beijing on 2 May. A Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Beidaihe, from 17-21 May was possibly the first for mainland China and a Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* there on 6-7 May was well north of its usual range. Also at this locality was a Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* on 7 May and another two on 14 May. At the Daqinghe River mouth, south of Beidaihe, there were three Relict Gulls *Larus relictus* on 10 May and six the following day. Records during a large 'fall' at this site on 11 May included c. 120 Siberian Rubythroats *Luscinia calliope,* 90 Siberian Blue Robins *L. cyane,* 200 Dusky Warblers *P. fuscatus,* 70 Radde's Warblers *P. schwarzi* and 150 Inornate Warblers *P. inornatus.* At the Dapuhe River mouth, also south of Beidaihe, a single Little Stint *C. minuta* was found on 17 May. Finally, at Old Peak, north of Beidaihe the following interesting observations were made during 19-20 May: three Koklass Pheasants *Pucrasia macrolopha,* four Large Hawk-Cuckoos *Cuculus sparverioides,* one or two Grey-sided Thrushes *Turdus feae,* three pairs of Snowy-browed Nuthatches *Sitta villosa* (breeding confirmed), two Chinese Leaf-Warblers *P. sichuanensis* and 15 Blyth's Leaf-Warblers *P. reguloides.*

INDIA

Two male Yellow Weavers *Ploceus megarhynchus* were found at nests at Okhla, Delhi on 1 June (CI, TI, BG) and there were several there on 9 July (TS). The site was visited again on 14 July (BG), when the nests were found to be submerged by the rising water level. If the birds involved are not escapes, this record constitutes a remarkable southerly range extension for the species. In Ladakh, at least five Plain-backed Snowfinches *Montifringilla blanfordi,* including a pair feeding young in a nest, were seen near the Taglang La (c. 4,500 m elevation) on 30 June and 1 July (NR, RM). This appears to be the first breeding record for the Indian sub-continent. Five Tibetan Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes tibetanus,* which were believed to be breeding, were seen at the same locality on 1 July (NR, RM).

INDONESIA

Bonerate

A brief visit on 23 September (GD) found the following new records for the island: A single Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris,* a single Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus,* five White-bellied Swiftlets *Collocalia esculenta,* eight Common Sandpipers *Tringa hypoleucos,* a single Great Crested-Tern *Sterna bergii,* a single Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus,* five Javan Pond-Herons *Ardeola speciosa* and two Pacific Swallows *Hirundo tahitica.*

Flores

Several Parasitic Jaegers *Stercorarius parasiticus* and seven Bulwer's Petrels *Bulweria bulwerii*, seen offshore in late September (GD), appear to be new species for the island.

Kalao

The following seven new species were observed offshore on 23 September (GD): 12 Whimbrels *Numenius phaeopus*, four Parasitic Jaegers *Stercorarius parasiticus*, two Great Crested-Terns *Sterna bergii*, 85 Bridled Terns *S. anaethetus*, two Red-footed Boobies *Sula sula*, a Brown Booby *S. leucogaster* and three Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel*.

Kalaotoa

A brief visit was made there on 23 September (GD). Two Rainbow Lorikeets *Trichoglossus haematodus* were heard (the subspecies *stresemanni* is endemic) and a single pair of Yellow-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua sulphurea* was seen. The following new species for the island were observed: A single Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus*, three Spotted Doves *Streptopelia chinensis*, three Emerald Doves *Chalcophaps indica*, a single Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*, five Great Crested-Terns *Sterna bergii*, 111 Bridled Terns *S. anaethetus*, 234 Red-footed Boobies *Sula sula*, two Brown Boobies *S. leucogaster* and five Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel*.

Kalimantan

During 17 August-3 September, the upper reaches of the Bahau River, east Kalimantan were visited on behalf of the WWF Kayan-Mentarang project (SB). The hills in the southern half of the area were visited and five days were spent between 1,000 and 1,900 m elevation. The following species were observed, which have not previously been recorded for the Indonesian part of Borneo, around the expedition camp during 26-28 August at 1,600-1,700 m elevation: Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides* (heard daily), Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (several birds heard every night), a female Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* (other minivets believed to be this species were commonly heard) and Bornean Spiderhunter *Arachnothera juliae* (first record for Indonesia). The summit of Mount Lunjut (c. 1,900 m) was visited on 27 August and the following species, also new for the Indonesian part of Borneo, were observed: an Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*, a single Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens* (first record for Indonesia), Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapillus* (common) and a singing Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcania*. Two species were seen which have only been recorded once before in the Indonesian part of Borneo: a single Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi* at 1,600 m on 27 August and a Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus* at 1,000 m on 26 August. Also noteworthy was a female Hose's Broadbill *C. hosii* at 1,000 m, on 26 August.

Whitehead's Broadbill Calyptomena whiteheadi
by Dave Showler

Salayar

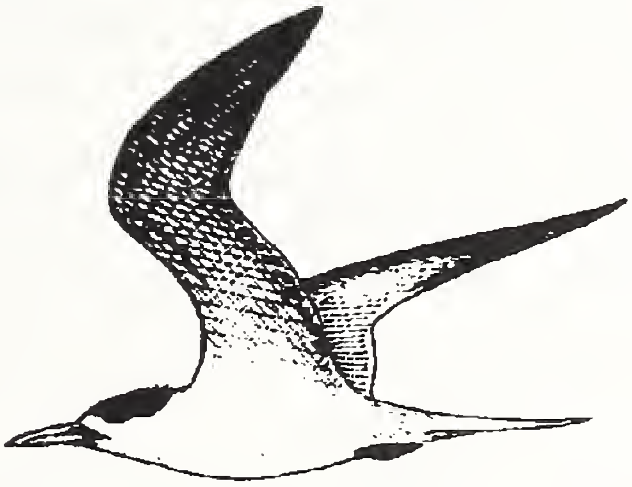
During a visit on 26 September (GD), the following new species for the island were recorded: Five Sacred Kingfishers *Todirhamphus sanctus*, c. 19 Rainbow Bee-eaters *Merops ornatus*, a juvenile Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus*, c. 34 White-bellied Swiftlets *Collocalia esculenta*, five House Swifts *Apus nipalensis*, a Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* (possibly an escape), an Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*, five Pink-necked Green-Pigeons *Treron vernans*, two Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, c. 130 Great Crested-Terns *Sterna bergii*, c. 25 Common Terns *S. hirundo*, two Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*, a single Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*, a single Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*, two Slender-billed Crows *Corvus enca*, four Black-naped Orioles *Oriolus chinensis* and 28 Pacific Swallows *Hirundo tahitica*.

Sulawesi

Ten Common Mynas *Acridotheres tristis*, seen in flight south of Ujung Pandang on 27 September (GD), appear to be the first for Sulawesi and Wallacea.

Tanahjampea

This Island was visited during 23-25 September (GD). The endemic White-tipped Monarch *Monarcha everetti*, not recorded since 1927, was quite common in logged forest, with 43 birds recorded and a single pair of Yellow-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua sulphurea* was seen. The following new species were recorded for the island: 11 Edible-nest Swiftlets *Collocalia fuciphaga*, 186 Spotted Doves *Streptopelia chinensis*, seven Buff-banded Rails *Gallirallus philippensis*, two probable Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*, five Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, 12 Common Redshanks *Tringa totanus*, seven Wood Sandpipers *T. glareola*, 16 Common Sandpipers *T. hypoleucos*, nine Pacific Golden Plovers *Pluvialis fulva*, ten Australian Pratincoles *Stiltia isabella*, 12 Black-naped Terns *Sterna sumatrana*, 20 Common Terns *S. hirundo*, 300 Bridled Terns *S. anaethetus*, a single Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, 12 White-faced Herons *Egretta novaehollandiae*, two Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis*, 54 Javan Pond-Herons *Ardeola speciosa*, a single Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*, two Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel*, four Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, 40 Pacific Swallows *H. tahitica* and 23 Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava*.



Great Crested-Tern Sterna bergii *by Craig Robson*

Tanimbar

During a BirdLife International survey of the island which took place in April and May (NB, YC), two species new to the island were observed: Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* and Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*.

NEPAL

During a visit to the Langtang Gorge in May, good numbers of the newly described Nepal Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata* were seen and heard singing (NR); further details will be published in the near future. An Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* between Itahari and Dharan on 21 January (AL) and a female Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *Mycerobas icterioides* below Deurali, near Ghorepani on 22 March (AL) were both new records for the country, although there had previously been an unconfirmed report of the latter. A record of two Sanderlings *Calidris alba* at Kosi Barrage on 16 (JF) and 18 February (MF) was the second for Nepal, as was a Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* at Thore Pati, Langtang National Park on 26 May (NR). Other vagrants seen during the period under review were a singing male White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis* of the subspecies *tschebaiewi* at Meghauli, Chitwan on 1 May (MF) and a male Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane*, between Chitre and Ghorepani on 17 March (MF). Two pairs of Rufous-tailed Larks *Ammomanes phoenicurus*, with the males in song, were found in the Lumbini area on 24 and 27 April (HB). This species was first observed in Nepal in December 1989 (HN) and others have been reported in the last few years. A Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* was found at Meghauli on 31 January (AL) and there were sightings of single Water Rails *Rallus aquaticus* at Kosi Barrage on 20 January (AL) and at Kosi Tappu on 17 February (JF). Two Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* were seen at Kosi Tappu on 3 April (AL) and four White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* were at Kosi Barrage on 15 February (JF). An Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*, now a very rare summer visitor to Nepal, was seen at Nagarjung on 30 April (MR). The nest of a Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, containing two chicks, was found at Gapte, near Gosainkund on 23 May (NR) and is the first confirmed breeding record for the country.

THAILAND

16 White-cheeked Starlings *Sturnus cineraceus*, a new species for Thailand, were reported with a single Common Starling *S. vulgaris* at Thaton in mid February (AM, PM) and a male Tristram's Bunting *Emberiza tristrami* was seen at Doi Ang Khang on 8 April (KK). A male Hume's Pheasant *Syrmaticus humiae* reported from Phu Khieo on 16 May (KKr) would, if accepted, constitute a remarkable range extension. Three White-winged Ducks *Cairina scutulata* were seen in the northern part of Thung Yai Wildlife Sanctuary, Tak on 5-6

April (PLe, PLao, KR) and another two were found in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary, Chaiyaphum on 24 May (KKr). A pale phase Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*, seen at Thaleban, Satun on 17 April (RL), was the first record for a number of years. A single Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* was reported from Chalerm Prakiat Wildlife Sanctuary (Pa Phru), Narathiwat on 13 April (KJ, RL, PL, NN). Also of note was a nest of Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus* containing two young in Chalerm Prakiat Wildlife Sanctuary on 15 March (ST), 12 Painted Storks *Mycteria leucocephala* at Wat Tham, Khao Yoi, Petchaburi on 20 June (AW), a Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* at Sadet Nykrom Maluang (Rap Ro) Wildlife Sanctuary, Chumphon on 4 May (HP) and a Gould's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus stellatus* reported from Thaleban, Satun on 16 April (KJ, PL, NN). A major breeding range extension was recorded for Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, when a pair was found nesting in Dan Sai, Loei in late May (PS). At least two pairs of House Sparrows *Passer domesticus* seen near Phimai, Nakhon Ratchasima on 31 March (PR) and a pair found nesting at Lum Narai, Lopburi on 27 May (RK, SK) further illustrate the continued spread of the species across the country. A flock of c. 100 Black-headed Greenfinches *Carduelis ambigua* at Doi Ang Khang in early February (JC) was an unusually high number.

VIET NAM

A female Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* seen at Dat Mui, Minh Hai (Cochinchina) on 14 September (JE), was a new bird for the country. An unidentified frigatebird was also seen there on the following day. At least four Ashy Tailorbirds *Orthotomus ruficeps* at Dam Doi bird colony, Minh Hai on 13 September (JC) provided the first confirmed record for the country. A pair of Orange-necked Partridges *Arborophila davidi* were seen at the site of their recent rediscovery in Nam Bai Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai on 1 June (NC, UT). Sightings of a pair of White-winged Ducks *Cairina scutulata* at Ho Ke Go, Nghe Tinh on 11 May and a single bird at the same place on 15 May (UT, NC), represent the second recent record from the country and a new locality for the species. Two Great Thick-knees *Burhinus recurvirostris* at Phan Thiet, Thuan Hai on 4 and 19 September (JE) were the first for South Annam and a welcome recent record for this species. Eight Asian Dowitchers *Limnodromus semipalmatus*, 500 Broad-billed Sandpipers *Limicola falcinellus*, five Spot-billed Pelicans *Pelecanus philippensis* and 20 Painted Storks *Mycteria leucocephala* were all at Duyen Hai, Dong Nai Delta, Thanh Pho Ho Chi Minh on 9 September (JE). At Dat Mui, Minh Hai there were two Asian Dowitchers on 15 September and a Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*, 26 Spot-billed Pelicans and 24 Painted Storks on 14 September (JE). A roost of at least 88 Asian Openbills *Anastomus oscitans* was recorded at Dam Doi bird colony, Min Hai on 13 September (JE). A pair of Asian Brown Flycatchers *Muscicapa dauurica* was found feeding two young in a nest near Prenn Waterfall, Da Lat, Lam Dong on 24 May (UT); the first breeding record for the country.

Records were collated by Craig Robson from observations and contributions by the following: J. Babbington (JB); S. van Balen (SB); H. Baral (HB); Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (RK, SK, PM); N. Brickle (NB); Y. Cahyadin (YC); J. Chance (JC); Nguyen Cu (NC); G. Dutson (GD); J. Eames (JE); B. Field (BF); M. Flack (MF); J. Fouarge (JF); B. Grewel (BG); Hornbill Project (HP); C. Inskipp (CI); T. Inskipp (TI); K. Jiajanpong (KJ); D. Johnson (DJ); K. Komolphalin (KK); K. Kreetiyutanon (KKr); P. Laothong (PLao); P. Lawansiri (PL); P. Lekuthal (PLe); R. Lekvanich (RL); A. Lewis (AL); A. Marshal (AM); R. de la Moussaye (RM); H. Nepali (HN); N. Nualnet (NN); R. Pickering (RP), N. Redman (NR); M. Roberts (MR); P. Round (PR); K. Ruangsree (KR); P. Seubnukorn (PS); T. Sinclair (TS); Sunbirder; S. Thongaree (ST); U. Treesucon (UT); N. Ward (NW); A. Wasantasuri (AW).

ERRATUM: Under the Sri Lanka section of *From the field* in *OBC Bull.* 17, a record of two Sooty Gulls *Larus hemprichii*, at the Chilaw sand-spit on 10 January 1993 was described as the first for the country. However, a single first winter bird had previously been found at Mutwal, Colombo on 3 January 1993 (P. Amndesh) and was later seen on 9 January 1993 (D. Warakagoda), when its identification was confirmed. Also, under Sulawesi in the Indonesia section, a record of c. 20 Common Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus* at Manado Harbour was described as apparently the first for Wallacea. In fact, there is a previous Wallacean record of two first year birds, seen from the pier in Ternate Town, Ternate on 8 April 1992 (JB, BF, NW).

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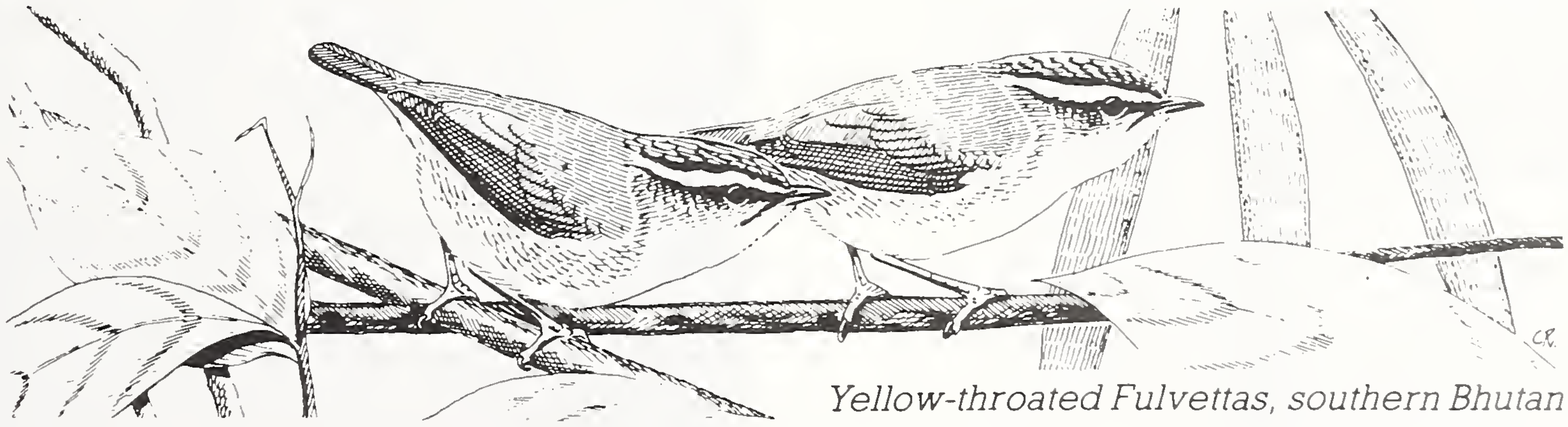

Yellow-throated Fulvettas, southern Bhutan

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WWT SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SAT 13 & SUN 14 NOV • SAT 11 & SUN 12 DEC
FROM SAT 1 TO SUN 9 JAN
FROM SAT 5 TO SUN 13 FEB

FISHERS GREEN, LEE VALLEY COUNTRY PARK, ESSEX
SUN 14 NOV • SUN 12 DEC
SUN 9 JAN • SUN 13 FEB

BROOMHILL FLASH, NR. BARNSLEY SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SUN 14 NOV
SUN 23 JAN

KENFIG NATURE RESERVE, MID-GLAMORGAN, SOUTH WALES
SAT 20 & SUN 21 NOV
SAT 15 & SUN 16 JAN

EXMOUTH, EXE ESTUARY, DEVON
SAT 20 & SUN 21 NOV

ABBERTON RESERVOIR, COLCHESTER, ESSEX
SUN 21 NOV • SUN 19 DEC
SUN 16 JAN

WWT MARTIN MERE, ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE
SAT 27 & SUN 28 NOV • SAT 18 & SUN 19 DEC
SAT 1 & SUN 2 JAN • SAT 8 & SUN 9 JAN
SAT 22 & SUN 23 JAN • SAT 29 & SUN 30 JAN

WWT ARUNDEL, WEST SUSSEX
SAT 27 & SUN 28 NOV
SAT 18 & SUN 19 DEC

RSPB DUNGENESS, EAST KENT
SAT 4 & SUN 5 DEC
SAT 29 & SUN 30 JAN

RSPB BLACKTOFT SANDS, SOUTH HUMBERSIDE
SAT 4 & SUN 5 DEC

LACKFORD, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK
SUN 5 DEC • SUN 2 JAN
SUN 6 FEB

WWT WASHINGTON, TYNE & WEAR
SAT 11 & SUN 12 DEC

SWILLINGTON INGS, NR. LEEDS, SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SUN 12 DEC
SUN 13 FEB

DAWLISH WARREN, SOUTH DEVON
SAT 8 & SUN 9 JAN

RSPB PULBOROUGH BROOKS, WEST SUSSEX
FROM THU 13 TO SUN 16 JAN

HAUXLEY NATURE RESERVE, NORTHUMBERLAND
SAT 22 & SUN 23 JAN

FILEY DAMS, NR. SCARBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE
SAT 5 & SUN 6 FEB

ADUR WATER ACTIVITY CENTRE, SHOREHAM, WEST SUSSEX
SAT 12 & SUN 13 FEB

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Legacy 8x24	99.00
Elite15x-45x60BGAP	395.00
Elite 77 Body	412.00
Elite 77ED Body	850.00
20xWA	164.00
30x	149.00
20-60xZoom	218.00
Cose	37.00

BUSHNELL	£
Notureview 8x42BGA	109.00
Spocemaster Body	185.00
S/Master Body ED	329.00
S/Master GA Body	198.00
15x-45x Zoom	79.00
22xWA	55.00
Case	20.00

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Guidelines for contributors

Whilst the Editor is always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on preparation, it would be helpful if the following guidelines could be adhered to:

1. **Articles** These should be written clearly, preferably typed, on one side of the page, with all lines double-spaced, leaving wide margins, and should be no longer than 2,000 words. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species appear in a table, they may be given there instead. Scientific names should, where possible, C. G. Sibley and B. L. Monroe (1990) *Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world.*

Any tables to accompany articles should be prepared on separate pieces of paper, and be thoroughly checked. Titles of tables should be self-explanatory. Diagrams should be clearly drawn, in ink, ideally 15cm wide and 11cm high. References should be cited in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in the same style used in this Bulletin.

It would be helpful of two copies of each contribution could be submitted.

2. **From the field** These should follow the format in the current edition of the OBC Bulletin, and be sent to OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K..

3. **News/Information** Typed or handwritten contributions should be sent to Adrian Long, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K..

Although every effort is made to retain all articles in their submitted form, the Editorial Committee reserves the right to make changes that it deems necessary, and, in a minimum of cases, without prior reference to the author. It is assumed that all contributors submitting material understand and accept these conditions.

For **Around the Orient, Recently published, Stray feathers**, the deadline for submission of material is 1 March (May Bulletin) and 1 September (November Bulletin). The deadlines do not apply to main articles which will be published as soon as possible after acceptance by the Editorial Committee.

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